



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 12th, 2014, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:50 pm and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Derrick Graham, Barbara Nelson and Dabney Montgomery were excused. Troy Gethers was absent.

District Manager Andrew LaSalle and Assistant District Manager Terry Yeboah were also present.

Guests in attendance: Arnyce Foster (City of New York Parks & Recreation – Park Administrator/Historic Harlem Parks), Shamell Martin (Partnership For Parks), Kieishsha Garnes (DPR), Patricia Bowles-Simmonds (Garden of Infinite Possibilities) and Candace Hatfield.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Committee and Board Member Dr. Gloria Richardson.

PRESENTATIONS

- a) HISTORICAL HARLEM PARKS – Arnyce Foster** –City of New York Parks and Recreation Historic Harlem Parks is a program designed to develop the fullest potential of the four designated Harlem Historic Parks; Marcus Garvey, Jackie Robinson, Morningside and St. Nicholas with respect to programming, fundraising, increasing personnel, enforcement and partnering with the Community and elected officials around resources and volunteerism. Ms. Foster explained that the objective of the program is to eventually establish a Harlem Conservancy on a level similar to that of the Central Park Conservancy. Programming would also be extended to any requesting local area park facility.

Outcome: The Historical Harlem Parks Program informed the Committee of their presence and would like to engage the Community in the development and implementation of enhanced programming in the four Harlem Historic Parks; Marcus Garvey, Jackie Robinson, Morningside and St. Nicholas

b) GARDEN OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES – Patricia Bowles-Simmonds

The proposed garden is located at 68 West West 116th Street – (Lot #69, Block #1599) . The lot site is between 5th Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard and is 3,028 square feet in size. Ms. Bowles-Simmonds explained that the site has been vacant for 17 years. The project purpose is to enhance, create and promote empowerment through community collaboration and communication engaging residents, schools, businesses and faith-based organizations from the local area in the art of gardening. The garden design also includes access and mobility provisions for gardening projects for the disabled and senior populations.

Ms. Bowles-Simmonds presented and submitted a petition of 119 signatures and a letter of support from NYS Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright.

Outcome: The proposed garden project will provide additional letters of support from local tenant and community-based organizations to substantiate support prior to November 19th. The sentiment of the Committee Chair, District and Assistant District Managers (in the absence of Committee members) and the Community is that the project would provide benefit to the community and be a welcomed asset. Support of the project is favored. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting sentiment will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

DISCUSSIONS

A. BUDGET PRIORITIES 2016 –To be discussed at the December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parks Department is pretty much at a standstill with the homeless problem in A. Philip Randolph Square and are not considering replacement of the benches at this time. Community Board 10 will address the issue of the homelessness situation in A. Philip Randolph Square with the District Cabinet on Wednesday, November 19th. The objective will be to identify a more holistic and effective approach to deal with eradicating the problem of vagrancy in the park so that the park environment can be restored.

Parks will be soliciting community support for St. Nicholas Park (128th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd) and King Playground (113th – 114th Streets on Malcolm X Blvd.), two CB 10 area parks listed on the Community Parks Initiative.

The playground equipment and handball courts were generously painted by a corporate volunteer group in Colonel Young Playground.

The Community is awaiting a follow-up collaborative meeting to an October initial meeting with Borough President Brewer, other Elected officials, the District Attorney's Office and the Parks Department to implement restoration plans for Colonel Young Playground.

Ms Hatfield, a teacher with Thurgood Marshall High School, will reach out to Community groups and the NYC Parks Department to partner to develop community-based activities to support studies of the Harlem Renaissance period for students.

A quorum was not present and there were no action items.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.