



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 8th, 2014, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 7:00 pm and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

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

Guests in attendance: Caroline Adams (Columbia Spectator), Stephen Wilkinson (Central Park Conservancy), Lane Addonizio (Central Park Conservancy), Shamell Martin (Partnership For Parks), Kieishsha Garnes (DPR), Albert Elkerson (1 Down 5 Up) and Merle Carroll (Esplanade Gardens).

PRESENTATIONS

a) CENTRAL PARK BOAT LANDING RESTORATIONS & CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSIBLE RAMP AT EAST 64TH STREET

ENTRANCE -The Central Park Conservancy is requesting a letter in support of these two projects. The Conservancy proposes to renovate and/or restore six historical boat landings positioned around the perimeter of the Lake in Central Park. This is the final phase of the Conservancy's work over the last seven years to restore the Lake and surrounding landscapes.

The Conservancy also plans to construct a ramp to the East 64th Street main entrance to the Arsenal (citywide headquarters of the Parks Department) and the Central Park Zoo within the perimeter landscape to provide wheelchair access and facilitate access by families with strollers. The project will include horticultural improvements and reconstruction of the adjacent park perimeter.

RFPs will be issued for the projects. Construction will begin as the milder weather sets in for 2015. The projects are currently undergoing a Public Review Process, Landmarks and Public Design Commission Reviews. Letters are requested by November.

Outcome: The sentiment of the Committee and Community is that the projects would provide welcomed enhancements to Central Park. Support of the projects is favored. In the absence of a quorum, the Committee's sentiment will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

DISCUSSIONS

- a) **DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT** -The Committee and the Community reviewed a chart comparing current 2014 PR district needs and suggestions based on 2015 budget priorities. The document draft was addended. Committee members will review and submit comments via e-mail in preparation for a submission of a final draft.

- b) **A. PHILIP RANDOLPH SQUARE, 116TH AND 117TH STREET, ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE AND ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. BLVD.: REMOVAL OF PARK BENCHES** - Benches were removed by the NYC Parks Department in order to combat homeless vagrancy, which has escalated in the park. Persons have been continually moving household items into park and sleeping on benches. The benches were removed in the interim, while Parks finds a viable solution.

Outcome: The NYC Parks Department will keep the Committee abreast of developments with respect to determinations regarding bench replacement and prevention of vagrancy in A. Philip Randolph Square.

- c) **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR** - The National Park Service (NRP) will celebrate its 100th anniversary in August 2016, as an agency devoted to the stewardship of the national parks of the United States. NRP is requesting input from local communities to identify threats to park resources as well as current and future opportunities to improve stewardship and benefit to the community.

Outcome: The Committee is requesting additional information or a presentation from the agency to clarify the specific request.

- d) **1 DOWN 5 UP** – The group is requesting support from the Community Board to have the city provision a temporary dirt bike park facility that would foster safety and education of riders, many of whom are at-risk disconnected youth, while keeping them from riding on the city streets. The group formerly presented to the Committee on June 12th, 2013 and has since been working with community organizations to arrive at a remedy.

Outcome: The group was asked to return with documentation substantiating community support in the form of petitions and letters from community-based organizations.

- e) **COMMITTEE GOALS** - The Committee reviewed the Parks & Recreation mission statement:

Parks & Recreation – “The Committee’s primary goal is to advocate for the improvement of the District’s parks and recreational facilities by engaging community residents, non-profit organizations, elected officials and government agencies.”

The Committee will plan a community outreach event projected for February 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, NYC Parks Department Commissioner William T. Castro, Executive Assistant DA Chauncey Parker and Elected Official representatives met with the Community in the first of a series of meetings to implement enhancements to the Colonel Young Playground.

October 18th and 19th – It’s My Park Day

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.