



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 8th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:35 pm and was held in the Manhattan CB10 conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Barbara Nelson and Derrick Graham,
Committee Members Absent: Troy Gethers, Lupe Moreno and Dabney Montgomery.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes - Manhattan Manager Parks and Recreation CBs 10 and 11 (NYC Parks), Alexander Han (NYC Parks – Deputy Director of Concessions), Daniel Irizarry (Electric Ladybug Garden), Lawrence Tem (Electric Ladybug Garden), John McBride (Electric Ladybug Garden), Milicent Redick, Babette Edwards, Louis Bailey (WEACT), Juanita Thomas, Francine Brown.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. **NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT – Loeb Boathouse – Central Park** - Alexander Han, NYC Parks Deputy Director of Concessions, presented information on the proposed building of a new outdoor bar pavilion to replace an existing exterior bar located at the Boathouse restaurant in Central Park. A large structure now located on the site next to the restaurant is used as a bar, storage and small kitchen area to serve the outdoor seating along the lake waterfront. This building blocks views of the lake and the park from all directions. The restaurant is located on the east side approximately on 73rd Street. The RFP for repairs, renovations and operation is being developed and will be listed to the general public. The recipient of the RFP will be the proprietor for a fifteen year term. Commentary must be made by May 4th, however Parks will be receptive to comments and concerns after the May 4th date. The restaurant currently grosses approximately \$20 million per year.

Outcome: The Committee expressed concern that employment around repairs, renovations and operation be made available to qualified CB 10 residents for the proposed project.

DISCUSSIONS

A. HARLEM RIVER PARK - Letters of invitation to participate in partnering with Harlem River Park will be sent to leadership of Riverbank, Riverton, Savoy Park, Esplanade Gardens, Beacon Towers, Bethune Tower, local tenant organizations, schools, senior centers, block associations, churches and not-for-profits. A special meeting may be called before the next Committee meeting in May. Tom Lunke of HCDC, Peggy Shepard of WEACTION and Millicent Redick and CB11 will be invited to the May meeting to inform the Harlem River Park coalition on the background and future vision for the park. CB 10 and 11 will establish our joint collaborative roles.

Summary of Remaining Harlem River Park Issues:

- Northward expansion of Harlem River onto Esplanade Gardens and MTA property
- Southward expansion of Harlem River Park to East Esplanade
- Continued policing and ongoing maintenance and landscaping of the park
- Replacement of the copper piping and valves to reactivate the onsite water system
- Replacement of damaged waterfront fencing and repair of sinkholes
- Memorandum of Agreement between city agencies to maintain pedestrian access ramps
- Bridge and Harlem River Drive infrastructure projects affecting Harlem River Park Drive
- Harlem River Drive 127th Street viaduct reconstruction
- Improvement to MTA Metro North substation fencing under railroad bridge in the park
- Linkage of Harlem River Park to Harlem African Burial Ground
- Future Harlem River Park enhancements
 - Comfort Station, barbeque stands, community gardens, dog run, etc.
 - Growing and maintaining a new advocacy group in partnership with NYC Parks Department

Harlem River Park is being built by the City of New York along 20 acres of the Manhattan Harlem River waterfront, east of the Harlem River Drive, from 125th Street to 145th Streets. Since 2002, three phases of the park have been

completed from 132nd to 145th Streets. Other phases connecting the park to a planned greenway around the island are in the early planning stages.

Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) will no longer be facilitating the Harlem River Park Task Force. The undertaking will now fall to community organizations in CBs 10 and 11 in collaboration with the NYC Parks and Recreation - Partnership for Parks Program, other community-based partnering groups, not-for-profit organizations and corporations.

Outcome: The Committee will reach out to the coalition formed around the Colonel Young Playground within CB 10, as well as to the Riverbank, Riverton, Savoy Park, Esplanade Gardens, Beacon Towers and the Bethune Tower developments Tenant Organizations, schools, senior centers and Block Associations in the area of the Harlem River Park. We will request a joint meeting of CB 10 and 11 to establish an understanding of the collaborative process around the Harlem River Park; it's continued development, maintenance, programming and long-term sustainability. The meeting will also be extended to Tom Lunke of Harlem Community Development Cooperation and Richard Toussaint, as well as other stakeholders.

B. COMMUNITY GARDENS – RESOLUTION RE: THE INFILL HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (NIHOP) AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (NCP) – The sentiment of the Committee and the Community is that the matter warrants a resolution substantiated by petitions signed by community residents, numerous presentations (including NYC Parks – Green Thumb). In addition, there has been a wealth of media attention both written and broadcast. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Councilman Mark Levine (7th District) and Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Councilman Cornegy (36th District) and Councilman Antonio Reynoso (34th District) have issued public statements. A letter was also received from Aziz Dekhan, Executive Director of the New York City Community Garden Coalition (NYCCGC) in support of the preservation of three targeted gardens in CB 10: (1) Electric Ladybug Community Garden, (2) Harlem Valley Community Garden, and (3) Harlem Grown Greenhouse. NYCCGC IS requesting a letter of support to keep the three active garden sites intact.

Outcome: The Resolution was drafted in the Committee with input from the Community. The draft will be further reviewed by Committee Chair Karen Horry and Committee Members Barbara Nelson and Derrick Graham. The document will then be submitted to the Executive Committee for a vote to take the

Resolution before the full board for a vote. A letter of support to preserve the three targeted active community gardens will also be requested for a vote in the EC meeting.

C. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT – The Committee reviewed the current District Needs Statement and will review further and return for a whole group discussion. It was agreed that the term green space should be replaced with Community Gardens. We are, however, aware that the definition of green space is inclusive of parks, community gardens and cemeteries. A comparison will be made to assess requests rejected and accepted in the Register of Community Board Budget Requests For the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2016.

Outcome: The Committee will continue to review the current District Needs Statement and will and return for a whole group discussion at the May meeting.

VOTING ITEMS

Community Gardens – Resolution Re: The Infill Homeownership Opportunities Program (NIHOP) and the Neighborhood Construction Program (NCP)

Letter of Support to preserve three targeted gardens under HPD’s NIHOP and NCP RFQ in CB10

OUTCOME: A quorum was not present so the vote was not taken. The item will be referred to the Executive Committee (EC) for a vote. Request will be made for placement on the EC agenda.

There were two Committee Members present in addition to the Committee Chair. Three of the six standing members were absent. The Committee suggested that new Board Appointees be assigned to the Parks and Recreation Committee in addition to the standing Members to ensure achievement of future quorums.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.