



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 13th, 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: Lupe Moreno and Derrick Graham

Committee Members Excused: Barbara Nelson

Committee Members Absent: Troy Gethers and Dabney Montgomery.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes - Manhattan Manager Parks and Recreation CBs 10 and 11 (NYC Parks), Millicent Redick, George Bloomer (NYC Parks), Jon Ernsberger (NYC Parks), Alison Shipley (NYC Parks) Leverne Taylor (Save a Park Save a Child Fred Samuel Playground), Erica Strang (Center for Urban Community Services), Tianna Bullard (CB 10 Office Intern), Shamell Martin (Partnership for Parks), Steve Simon (NYC Parks), Julius Key (Frederick Douglass Academy H.S.)

PRESENTATIONS

A. **NYC Parks Martin Luther King, Jr. Playground** – The playground is located on West 113th through West 114th Streets along Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard and is designated as Park M128. The final design includes;

- Adult Fitness Area
- A relocated entrance through the Adult Fitness Area
- 3 new handball courts
- Drinking fountain
- 2 new basketball courts
- Sitting areas in between court and fitness areas and children's playground
- Tot area and state-of-the-art play equipment
- Tot swing area
- Water play area with colored concrete
- Synthetic turf open play area with surrounding backless bench seating

- Play area and state-of-the-art play equipment for ages 5-12
- Ages 5- 12 Swing area
- New 4' steel perimeter fence
- Drinking fountain
- Bike rack area
- New low planting fences 2'6" in height

The project will maintain the existing concrete but will also include new pavement on the Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X border of the park and the handball court areas. New colored concrete pavements and new asphalt will be incorporated at various locations throughout the playground. Safety surfaces and new permeable concrete pavers will be installed in addition to existing ones in the playgrounds and adult fitness area. New color seal coats will be applied over the new asphalt pavements in the basketball courts which will be bordered new asphalt pavement. The new playground design will increase ground permeability by 24%.

New shade trees will be installed alongside existing trees which currently include Callery Pear, Green Ash, Little Leaf Linden, London Plane, Siberian Elm and White Ash. Newly introduced tree and shrub species as selected are Sweetgum, Pin Oak, Basswood, Serviceberry, Winterberry, Sweet Fern, Inkberry, Ninebark and Fragrant Sumac. The proposed perennial and groundcover species will include; Butterfly Weed, Wild Geranium, Cardinal Flower, Brown-eyed Susan, Sweet Woodruff, Allegheny Spurge and Barren Strawberry.

A new entryway will be built from the NYCHA Roadway. The entryway to the Adult Fitness area will have a ramp. New lighting will be installed in the interior of the playground in addition to the peripheral lighting already in existence.

The project will be issued for RFP and the timeframe will begin in Spring of 2016 and run for 12 months, concluding in 2017. The Committee and Community inquired about the incorporation of a skate boarding area but Parks advised that an area distal from residences would be more appropriate in terms of noise considerations. Harlem River or Riverside Parks were suggested as possible sites.

Outcome: The Committee sentiment was in favor of the final design of the project and will draft a supporting Resolution. In view of a lack of quorum a vote was not taken in Committee. The drafted Resolution will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval for presentation to the full Board for a vote in the June general meeting.

B. NYC Parks St. Nicholas Playground North – Jon Ernsberger is(NYC Parks Capital Design) – The playground, located on West 129th through 131st Streets. Based on responses from 15 community members present at the public scope meeting held on December 9th, 2014 and 31 individual questionnaire responses, many gathered at the St. Nicholas Houses Tenants Association meeting held on December 17th, 2014. The final design for the playground includes;

- Relocated entrances through adult fitness area
- Adult Fitness Area
- 2 new basketball courts including new backstops (larger court with spectator seating)
- Multi-use area
- sitting areas (ADA compliant)
- Ages 2- 5 area furnished with state-of-the-art play equipment
- Swing area
- Water play area
- Play area and state-of-the-art play equipment for ages 5-12 including Cozi dome for autistic children
- New 4' steel perimeter fence
- New low planting fences 2'6" in height

The project will maintain the existing concrete but will also include new sidewalk pavement on the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. border of the playground. The new playground design will increase ground permeability by 22%.

The project will be issued for RFP and the timeframe will begin in Spring of 2016 and run for 12 months, concluding in 2017.

Outcome: The Committee sentiment was in favor of the project. The Parks Department is requesting a resolution in support of the project design. In view of a lack of quorum a drafted Resolution will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval for presentation to the full Board for a vote in the June general meeting for a full board vote.

DISCUSSIONS

A. HARLEM RIVER PARK - Richard Toussaint, a community resident, was instrumental in conceptualizing, spearheading and oversight of the park construction and programming. Mr. Toussaint offered to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting in order to provide historical background and issues around the project. Unfortunately, Mr. Toussaint

was unable to attend. The Executive Committee tabled the discussion on Harlem River Park and outreach by the Parks and Recreation Committee at the April Executive Committee Meeting. The Committee is awaiting direction from the Board leadership to provide guidance as to how to proceed in moving forward.

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: Direction pending from Board leadership as to how the Parks and Recreation Committee should proceed on this issue.

B. Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) – Erica Strang, LCSW Program Director – Outreach Team – Homeless In the Parks –

CUCS has been active in the CB10 area, particularly in Harlem River Park and A. Philip Randolph Square. The agency welcomes phone calls to 311 if individuals in need of assistance are sighted in the parks. A CUCS Outreach Team will respond within a matter of hours. CUCS will be joining as a participating agency in the District Cabinet and Ms. Strang will be attending the monthly meetings.

CUCS does not address the issues of squatters living in buildings because of safety considerations but will service individuals in open areas such as parks. The Parks Department is continuously conducting homeless sweeps at night.

Waitlisting is a deterrent to permanent placement of homeless individuals because of a shortage of low-income housing.

Outcome: CUCS will be joining as a participating agency in the District Cabinet and Ms. Strang will be attending the monthly meetings.

C. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT – The Committee reviewed and compared capital and expense submissions for the Parks and Recreation Committee that were either rejected or 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 return for a whole group discussion at the June meeting.

There were two Committee Members present in addition to the Committee Chair. Two of the six standing members were absent and one was excused. 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.