



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

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District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:45 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), Rasheed Hislop (NYC Parks – Green Thumb), Haja Worley (Project Harmony), Cynthia Worley (Project Harmony), Nancy Haseley, (NYC Parks Department CPI), Bruce Brittain (Project Harmony), Shamell Martin (NYC Parks Department Partnerships For Parks), Alison Shipley (NYC Parks Department QRP), Johnny Hobbes, Jacob Azeke (King Towers Resident), Kenneth Williams (NYC Parks – Green Thumb) and Abena Smith (Resident and 32nd Precinct Community Council).

PRESENTATIONS

- A. **NYC PARKS MLK PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS**— The presentation outlined the suggested proposal for the park re-design based on community residents and NYC Parks architects collaboratively developed as the outcome of a charrette. The Parks Department accepted suggestions from the Committee and Community present at the meeting and are still in the information gathering phase. Following completion the design will be entered into an open bidding process.

Outcome: The group will return to the May Committee meeting to share a finalized design.

- B. **JOSEPH DANIEL WILSON (JDW) COMMUNITY GARDEN –**
Presenters Haja and Cynthia Worley and Bruce Brittain – The JDW Garden is situated in an area spanning 7 lots on Block 1928 on 122nd Street

between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Frederick Douglass Boulevards. Mr. and Mrs. Worley are the founders of the community garden and are in support of Holly and Bruce Brittain, owners of a peripheral lot's purchase of a lot that is privately owned and centrally located in the garden. The Brittain are proposing to purchase the lot and swap it with the garden in exchange for a lot the Brittain own which would allow the garden to be contiguous. The Brittain are planning to build a townhouse and this would expand the space that they currently have. Green Thumb is in support of the project as well as the garden advocates. The Brittain are requesting a Letter of Support from the Community Board.

Outcome: The Committee has requested that Mr. Brittain provide documentation establishing support from the surrounding community and garden participants as well as architectural plans for the proposed project.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **HARLEM RIVER PARK**- - Committee discussed its role as a facilitator of CB 10 Community coalitions taking on the responsibility of maintenance and programming in sustaining and furthering the completion of the still developing project. The group reviewed the minutes of the final meeting held by Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) as the oversight group responsible for the Harlem River Park Task Force. CB 10 will work in conjunction with CB 11 to secure the park's future.

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.

The park restores the community's historic access to the Harlem River waterfront by providing pedestrian access ways over the Harlem River Drive at 135th Street and Madison Avenue, 139th Street and Fifth Avenue, and 142nd Street and Fifth Avenue. Several community visioning sessions led to the park becoming a model for ecologically sensitive habitat restoration and water filtering at the river's edge. The Frederick Douglass Academy and various universities in New York City have taken advantage of this natural classroom and are studying contamination levels in the river, generating awareness and interest in preserving the environment amongst community members. The Harlem River Park Task Force has also engaged local artists to design murals, banners and etched panels for the park and adjoining streets to celebrate the unique

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.

B. CB 10 PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH SPORTS SAFETY

COMMUNITY EVENT – The Committee is planning a youth sports education event featuring *NFL Indianapolis Colts Safety Mike Adams*. Mr. Adams was signed by the San Francisco 49ers (2004-2006) as an undrafted free agent in 2004 and also spent time with the Cleveland Browns (2007-2011),

prior to the Denver Broncos (2012-2014). Adams became an AFC Champion with the Broncos his 2013-2014 season and competed in Superbowl XLVIII. In 2014-2015 NFL season Adams became a Pro Bowl Champion, tied for league takeaways, and set a career high of 93 tackles as an Indianapolis Colt. He played College football at the University of Delaware.

The event will focus on self-esteem, motivation and football sport safety involving youth. The targeted group will be local area football leagues engaging youth ages 5-19. The format will include a (1) documentary film on the career of Mr. Adams, detailing his overcome of obstacles, determination and resilience in pursuit of his career path, (2) Q&A with Mr. Adams and with a NYC Parks Department sports safety education expert. Light refreshments will be served.

Outcome: The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 14th at the Dwyer Cultural Center located at 258 Saint Nicholas Avenue from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

C. HOMELESS IN CB 10 PARKS – The Committee will re-visit this discussion in the April Committee meeting.

D. COMPTROLLER STRINGER REPORT: New Claimstat Alert Shows Rise In Claims From Playground Injuries Has Cost Taxpayers Over \$20 Million – The Committee will re-visit this discussion in the April Committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.** The Parks and Recreation Committee successfully held its planned Youth Sports Safety Forum featuring ***Indianapolis Colts Safety and 11-year veteran of the NFL: Mr. Mike Adams*** on March 14th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Dwyer Cultural Center located at 258 Saint Nicholas Avenue. The event, moderated by actor, director and playwright Ms. Lee Kirk, was attended by over 100 youth and adults, many of whom were members of the Harlem Jets. The forum included a documentary featuring Mr. Adams: ***“Earned My Spot”***. A Question & Answer segment followed with Mr. Adams and later Roberto Barreto – Manhattan Deputy Chief of Recreation – NYC Parks and Recreation. Mr. Adams was presented with a Congressional Proclamation by Congressman Charlie Rangel for his heroism and service to community youth.
- B.** NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring its ***Summer With NYC Parks Program*** which will include a schedule of a variety of FREE fun and exciting special events for children at select Parks & Playgrounds across the city. Upcoming events with limited registration include:
- a. *Manhattan Recreation Obstacle Adventure Race*** -Thursday, July 16th, 2015 at Riverside Park (West 103rd Street & Riverside Drive)

b. *Iron Kids Competition* – Thursday, July 30th, 2015: 12pm – 2 pm at Marcus Garvey Park & Pool (Madison Avenue, East 120th to East 124th Streets)

For more information visit www.nyc.gov/parks. Pre-register at 212-408-0243 or via email to Anthony.Traverso@parks.nyc.gov

A quorum was not present so there were no action items. There were two Committee Members present in addition to the Committee Chair. Three of the six standing members were absent.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.