



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018, 6:30pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Hon. Leevert Holmes Vice Chair

Meeting began at 6:30 pm and was held in the 4th Floor Conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Leevert Holmes, Troy Gethers and Crystal Shipp

Committee Members Absent: Henrietta Lyle, Mark Bones, Derrick Graham and Maurice Sessoms

Guest Committee Members in Attendance: LeBon Mason

Guests in attendance: Allenduba (MKW & Associates), Ryan Goldstein (MKW & Associates), S. Wilkins (Seneca Village), Cal Jones (Seneca Village), Steven Hamson (NYC DPR), Bria Mathis (NYC Parks), Michael Haggerty, Cynthia Copeland (Seneca Village), Diana Wall (Seneca Village), Marie Warsh (Central Park Conservancy), Lane Andonizi (Central Park Conservancy), Chauncey Parker (DANY), Janay Shabazz, Alda Chan (NYC Parks), Cathy Manning (Fred Johnson Park), Julia Wagner (NYC Parks), Dr. Leonard Jeffries (Dr. Jeffries Foundation), Minah Whyte (Assemblyman Al Taylor), Matt Mason (Harlem Lacrosse), Muhammad Kourouma (Harlem Lacrosse), Souley Ballo (Harlem Lacrosse), Shawn Harper (Harlem Lacrosse), Zoumana (Harlem Lacrosse), Jordan Florian (Harlem Lacrosse), Thiago (Harlem Lacrosse), Atari (Harlem Lacrosse), Davon J. (Harlem Lacrosse), Neguens Qvincy, Briana Peppers, Herbert Seignoret (Seneca Village), Matt Reilly (Seneca Village), Sam Penceal, Gregory Bagget, Sam Penceal, Steve Simon (NYC Parks) and Fallou Faye (Harlem Lacrosse).

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Colonel Charles Young Playground - Ball field Renovation

Executive District Attorney Chauncey Parker presented the need to move the Colonel Charles Young Playground Renovation project along, as it has been stagnating due to funding issues at the NYC Parks level.

Colonel Charles Young Playground is located on West 143rd, West 144th and West 145th Streets along Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard to the Harlem River Drive in Community Board 10; and is one of our premiere parks.

The proposed renovation is to install a multi-purpose upgrade of the Colonel Charles Young Playground ball field to accommodate football, soccer and lacrosse in addition to softball to provide a local area option for school youth and little league sports groups. The upgraded facility will provide a local option for practice so they will not have to incur unnecessary expense or time to travel to remote areas outside of the community.

The Community initially met with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Executive District Attorney Chauncey Parker and NYC Parks Borough Commissioner William Castro and Representatives for Senator Bill Perkins, Assemblyman Keith Wright, and NYC Council Member Inez Dickens on October 8th, 2014 to discuss the upgrade of the Playground.

Subsequent and extensive meetings were held with the Community, Manhattan Borough President Chief of Staff Jessica Mates, Executive District Attorney Chauncey Parker, Partnership for Parks, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and other interested organizations in follow-up discussions where funding was identified for the renovation project in 2016. A feasibility study and preliminary design plans were explored on September 13th, 2016.

Community Board 10 voted unanimously on October 5th, 2016 approving a resolution to support the upgrade of the Colonel Charles Young Playground, through the renovations and new designs.

Efforts to move the project forward have been at a standstill.

Outcome: The Committee will arrange a meeting to be held with Commissioner Mitchell Silver (NYC Parks), Chauncey Parker (DANY), Gale Brewer (Manhattan Borough President) to discuss advancement of this vital project to upgrade the ball field to a multi-purpose turf field.

B. Harlem Rhythm - Did not appear

Outcome: Tabled.

C. Central Park Conservancy and Seneca Village - Proposed Commemoration in Central Park

Seneca Village was a settlement of predominantly African American landowners in the borough of Manhattan in New York City, founded in 1825 by free black people – the first such community in the city. It became multi-ethnic by the 1840's, to be inhabited by several other minorities, including Irish and German immigrants, and Native Americans.

The settlement was located on about 5 acres of land and was approximately bounded by 82nd through 89th Streets from Seventh Avenue to Central Park West within the current Central Park location.

The Seneca Village Project, the Community and other concerned stakeholders are advocating for a physical commemoration to the historic settlement that was destroyed as a result of eminent domain in 1857, when it was torn down for the construction of Central Park. Recommendations include a desire for a project that will include several integrated components, tying together the archaeological finds and archival research into a comprehensive educational experience.

Central Park Conservancy will be hiring a specialist this summer who will explore the educational opportunities to educate using the artifacts and historical research uncovered by members of the Seneca Village Project.

Outcome: The Committee will request approval for the formation of a task force dedicated to collaborating with the Central Park Conservancy to commemorate the historic settlement of Seneca Village. The Committee will meet again with Central Park Conservancy in September to revisit any proposed advancements towards bringing the project to fruition.

D. Harlem Lane Playground and Frederick Johnson Playground Renovations

Harlem Lane Playground (Park ID: M141 - 1.64 acres) is located between the Harlem River Drive and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and between West 151st and West 153rd Streets. Frederick Johnson Playground (Park ID: M159 - 2.44 acres) is located between the Harlem River Drive and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and between West 150th and West 151st Streets.

The project will reconstruct Harlem Lane Playground, including the comfort station, stairs, sports areas, lighting, plantings, paths, benches, and sidewalks. The proposed designs will also re-establish the connection between the upper and lower portions of the park and may introduce new features like a walking and bike path.

The project will not impact the existing tennis courts.

Meetings were held with Community stakeholders to determine the scope of work for the project in October and December of 2017. Parks presented initial design plans at the February 14th meeting and has returned to the Committee with final designs.

As a result of testimony from the youth Lacrosse community the Committee strongly recommends that the handball courts be maintained without alterations and is in favor of issuing a letter of support inclusive of this recommendation.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of issuing a letter of support with emphasis on the recommendation to leave the existing handball courts intact and unaltered.

E. Central Park Conservancy Visitor Experience at the Central Park Conservancy - Did not appear

There was no presentation, however, the following information was forwarded to the Board via e-mail:

“The Central Park Conservancy is now offering **daily tours** of Central Park. Expert guides highlight the Park’s history and design, nature and horticulture, and the Conservancy’s work to restore and maintain the New York City treasure. These offerings include regularly slated tours that visit some of the Park’s most well-known sites as well as more in-depth tours that offer locals a whole new view of the Park they use every day. Summer highlights will include tours of the Conservatory Garden and the North Woods in July and Spanish language Iconic Views of Central Park and North Woods Tours in August.

Also included in this program are Discovery Walks for Families, **free family programs** that include hands-on exploration and give kids an opportunity to see why the Park is such a special place for people and wildlife. For those looking to learn more about the Park on their own, explore available free online **self-guided tours** or visit the Conservancy visitor centers. The Conservancy tours provide numerous options for locals and visitors to learn about Central Park; an incredible masterpiece of American design. More details about all these tours can be found online at centralparknyc.org/tours.”

Outcome: Tabled for a future visit to the Committee. Information to be e-blasted.

F. East Harlem Resiliency Study

The East Harlem Resiliency Study is a project led by NYC Parks and the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency whose mission is to bring together neighbors to share ideas on how East Harlem can be a stronger and safer community in the face of a changing climate. The study will result in a *Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem*; a roadmap of recommendations to shape resiliency projects and prioritize neighborhood improvements. The project will engage the community through forums that will be designed to facilitate opportunities to learn more about the study and provide feedback and insights.

The group made an introductory presentation and is seeking participation from the Central Harlem community.

Outcome: The Project will return to the Committee in September to garner further feedback from the CB10 community.

III. Old Business

a. Updates

- i.** Community Outreach - Chess Event - postponed to Fall 2018
- ii.** CB 10 - Recreation Centers Survey CB 10 Recreation Centers Survey-
The Committee developed questions to be used to poll local area

recreational facilities to ascertain whether CB 10 can support in promoting community usage. - Poll will be made by an assigned intern and data prepared for review by Committee in September

iii. Harlem African Burial Ground

iv. Harlem EatUp! - proposed compromise introduced by FDBA to hold the event in October as opposed to the spring in order to minimize any damage caused to the ball field.

The Committee **did not have quorum**, four of the eight standing members were not in attendance, no items were voted on. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

~Respectfully submitted by Parks and Recreation Chair, Karen Horry~