



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:40 pm and was held in the Manhattan CB10 conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Kevin Bitterman and Maurice Sessoms.

Committee Members Excused: Derrick Graham

Committee Members Absent: Lupe Moreno, Troy Gethers, Dabney Montgomery and Barbara Nelson.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes (NYC Parks), Sean Simmons (Student), James L. Goode, Jr. (Social Worker), Michael Allen (Renaissance Park Playground), Aisha N. Smith (The Alamo Youth Basketball League), Kelsey Smith (Columbia Spectator) and Marie Littlejohn (President, The Friends of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard Malls).

Andrew LaSalle (CB 10 District Manager) was also in attendance.

PRESENTATION

- A. **The Dunbar Diamond Public Art Project - Jacob Morris** – Mr. Morris is requesting a Letter in Support of a proposed temporary public art project entitled the Dunbar Diamond Memorial. The diamond-shaped 6 sided kiosk will include renderings and descriptions of reknowned African American legends who resided in or near the Dunbar Apartments. The list includes W.E.B. Dubois, Matthew Henson, Charles Hamilton Houston & Thurgood Marshall, Paul Robeson and Doctors Kenneth B. Clark & Minnie Phipps Clark.

The proposed location for the kiosk is the Dunbar triangle.

Outcome: The Committee invited Mr. Morris to return to the November meeting with documentation substantiating community support of the project for the Committee's consideration.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Open Space Index (OSI) and Potential Partnerships** - The Open Space Index (OSI) is a set of 15 specific open space and sustainability standards designed to provide residents, community groups and public officials with data about the strengths and weaknesses of local open space conditions. Communities can use the OSI to assess and prioritize their open space needs, identify environmental sustainability opportunities and organize and build advocacy campaigns. Public officials can use the OSI to more effectively target capital spending on park and other open space improvements. New Yorkers for Parks, an independent not-for-profit organization operating city-wide to bring equity to park users, will conduct the research assessment and compilation of data. The project will require a budget provided by a designated funding source. OSIs have already been completed for City Council Districts 4 and 5, Mott Haven and East Harlem.

Outcome: The Committee has reached out to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital Community Health Education Outreach as well as Harlem Hospital's Public Affairs and is awaiting response. Columbia University was suggested as a possible resource. The Committee will continue to explore potential partnerships for coupling with New Yorkers for Parks to develop an OSI for CB 10.

- B. **Chess Festival Event** – The proposed Chess Festival will be a collaborative effort of Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee, NYC Parks, Chess-in-the-Schools and Harlem Historic Parks as well as interested local area organizations and businesses.

The Chess Festival will consist of 5 major components; (1) instruction for Beginners, both youth and adults, (2) Grand Master playing Advanced Players, (3) Speed Chess Tournaments, (4) Puzzle-solving competitions and (5) Chess Store.

Outcome: The Committee will forward the proposal to the Parks Department to initiate the Event Plan.

- C. **PARK UPDATES** – There is an urgent need for Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers for Manhattan CB 10. Currently, officers are disproportionately distributed amongst the parks of the five boroughs and CB 10 is one of the high shortage areas. It was recommended that the urgent need for PEP officers be highlighted in the District Needs Statement as well as in the budget priorities. Enforcement would potentially have impacts

resulting in a decreased need for maintenance as related problematic issues such as dogs off leashes, illegal barbecuing and non-compliant team sport organizations become curtailed. In addition, PEP Officers are reallocated to pool parks during the summer and are not present in the playgrounds and parks.

The Renaissance Playground is in need of storage space for sports equipment that was donated and is used each year for their special youth sports events program.

Marie Littlejohn, President of the Friends of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls, strongly expressed an urgent need for funding to revitalize and beautify the malls. This holiday season the group will be hosting Christmas tree lighting ceremonies along the mall featuring caroling. The organization continues to seek volunteers to participate in the planting and holiday activities.

Outcome: The Committee, per favorable sentiment, will continue to take park updates under advisement as we consider community parks and recreation issues in alignment with the committee's mission. The Committee will emphasize the urgency for assignment of PEP Officers to major CB 10 parks and include the request for funding to plant the ACP, Jr. Blvd. Malls as part of the District Needs Statement.

D. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT – The District Needs segment for Parks and Recreation statement was submitted in July. The Committee will use the additional time to tweak the statement and incorporate the need for an Open Space Index and include a request for planting and maintenance for the ACP, Jr. Blvd. mall. Sections will be added to reflect community concerns around park regulation enforcement and funding needed to maintain ACP, Jr. Blvd. Malls.

Outcome: The Committee constructed the District Needs Statement based upon community issues heard and vetted in Committee. The Committee will continue to seek incorporation of community input. The targeted date for submission is Friday 10/23.

E. BUDGET PRIORITIES – The Committee is continuing to review and compare 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. The Committee is also providing updates indicating newly developed needs as per community input and issues arising in Committee, i.e., urgency for PEP officers and ACP, Jr. Blvd. mall maintenance. The targeted date for submission is Friday, 10/23.

The Committee did not have quorum. Five of the now eight standing members were absent including one excused member. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

The sentiment of the Committee was in favor of adopting the drafted and presented Committee Newsletter.

The Committee was also in favor of the drafted proposal for submission to the Parks Department to initiate planning for a Spring Chess Festival Event.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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