



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor—New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 10th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:32 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, Derrick Graham and Kevin Bitterman

Board Members in attendance: Deborah Gilliard

Committee Members Excused: Dabney Montgomery and Maurice Sessoms

Committee Members Absent: Lupe Moreno, Mark Bones Levert Holmes, Troy Gethers, and Barbara Nelson.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes, Bill O'Donnell (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle – FFDC), Maggie Favretti (Harlem Renaissance Jazz Garden), Phil Young, Stephanie Far, Remi Nakazeki (Scarsdale H.S.), Jonathan Gruen (Scarsdale H.S.), Kara Elcik (Scarsdale H.S.), Michael Allen (Harlem Renaissance Jazz Garden), Dennis Young (Frederick Douglass), Frank Lovece (FFDC), Sarah Silverman (Harlem Village Academy), Kendrick Simmons (FFDC), Earnestine Temple (NYS Assemblyman Denny Farrell), Gail Davis (Round the Clock), Fred Wilson (Robert Clinksales HMCD Community Park/Garden), Teri Dawson (NYCHA-Drew Hamilton), Eric Epps (NYCHA-Drew Hamilton), Sue Eysler (FFDC) and P. Craig (SUSU Harlem).

PRESENTATION

- A. **Scarsdale High School Public Policy and Urban Design Class, “City 2.0”** – Westchester County- Scarsdale High School students, under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Margaret Favretti, presented their proposed project to create a Harlem Renaissance Jazz Garden inside of CB 10's Renaissance Playground. The group detailed their plans to alter the Renaissance Park to serve as a public space for residents to grow fruits and vegetables while learning about the importance of eating healthy. The project is a vision of long-term Harlem resident Michael Allen. Famed jazz musician Phil Young expressed his advocacy for the project and his commitment to help to integrate a jazz identity to the park. The group is requesting a letter of support.

The students have undertaken the project as a result of a general education social studies curriculum. The urban planning coursework is extensive and college preparatory. The Committee suggested that the curriculum be shared with CB 10 high schools as an exemplary education model, as our students should be engaged in such applications of real world projects and learning experiences. Ms. Favretti generously agreed.

The Community shared information on the requirements and process for creation of a community garden in CB 10 and advised the group that they will need to have verification of community support through letters of support from schools, churches, tenants associations, businesses and community-based organizations and elected officials as well as petition signatures, particularly a percentage from the 4,000 resident Drew Hamilton development which is adjacent to the park.

Outcome: The group will return to the Committee with documentation substantiating Community support for the proposed Harlem Renaissance Jazz Garden project from Drew Hamilton and other area residents, elected officials, schools, local community-based organizations and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the park.

- B. **Frederick Douglass Circle Skateboarding Concerns and Suggested Modifications** – Friends of the Frederick Douglass Boulevard Circle (FFDBC) returned to the Committee to present a detailed anti-skateboarding modification proposal for the Frederick Douglass Circle to preclude the activity. The structure is continuously being vandalized by skateboarders who find the current structure and configuration conducive to their sport. NYC Park and Police actions have not deterred the problem.

The group is requesting a resolution in support of the modifications to be recommended to the Department of Parks and Recreation and/or the Central Park Conservancy. They have already secured a resolution from Community Board 7. The group was advised that they would need to provide substantiation of community support for the project.

Skateboarding is engaged in by a growing number of youth in the area and the need for a skateboarding facility within CB 10 for local area youth was also discussed. The associated noise factor would have to be taken into consideration when selecting a site.

Outcome: The group will return to the Committee with documentation substantiating Community support for the proposed Frederick Douglass Circle anti-skateboarding modifications project from other area residents, elected officials, schools, local community-based organizations and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the structure.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. Colonel Young Playground and NYC Parks Without Borders** – The Community is encouraged to register their input in the selection of Colonel Young Playground as a nominated park for selection as a renovation project in the NYC Parks Without Borders project. Feedback can be provided on the NYC Parks website <http://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning/parks-without-borders> by following instructions to nominate the CB 10 park. Individuals can make suggestions as to ways to improve the park's entrances, edges and park-adjacent spaces. Suggestions will help in the selection of sites and the design of the project. Comment intake will end after February 29th.

Outcome: The Committee will continue to send e-blasts to promote community participation.

- B. Chess Festival Budget and Date Set** – The proposed Chess Festival will be a collaborative effort of Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee, NYC Parks and the Chess-in-the-Schools Foundation as well as interested local area schools, 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.

NYC Parks Department will provide \$7,000 towards the event. The balance will be provided by the Board and through in-kind contributions. The site of the event will be Colonel Young Playground located between Fifth Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard from 143rd to 145th Streets. The Youth On The Move organization will donate chairs for the event. The Committee is currently looking for tables and a public address system to facilitate the event as well as additional resources.

Outcome: The Committee is continuing to develop a budget for submission to the Executive Committee. The spring 2017 date for the event is to be determined.

- C. 2017 Budget Priorities** – The Committee is still collecting community input.

The non-prioritized list of items to date is as follows:

Maintenance Expenses

- Provide additional maintenance staff for park comfort stations in CB 10, ongoing landscaping and maintenance for all CB10 parks and playgrounds, additional staffing of park seasonal maintenance staff additional staffing of park management

- Provide staff positions for Playground Associates for CB 10 playgrounds and materials to run recreational programs for children during the summer months
- Provide additional PEP Officers to serve Manhattan
- Provide additional maintenance equipment vehicles

Capital Expenses

- Upgrade the fields at Colonel Young Playground to include both baseball, football and soccer use
- Install NEX turf on the ball park field of Colonel Young Playground
- Install a combination football/soccer goal post in Colonel Young Playground
- Continue to provide programs that promote community-based park-partnership activities and event
- Maintain Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls
- Identify and provide resources to support the development of a designated dirt bike facility that will promote safe and responsible ridership
- Provide an immediate and temporary designated dirt riding bike park facility in the interim of the development of a permanent facility
- Transfer HPD and DCAS properties to the NYC Parks Department for creation of green space and gardens in the vacant areas in the district
- Development of a Harlem River Park waterfront Esplanade
- Successful and integrated approach to rodent management in CB 10 park facilities
- Continue the support of installation of playground amenities and equipment to assist the disabled in CB 10 parks and playgrounds
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Colonel Young Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Fred Samuels Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment for children in Fred Samuels Playground
- Rebuild Courtney Callendar comfort station
- Provide enhanced lighting for Colonel Young Triangle
- Provide biographical plaques and installation to commemorate park namesakes in CB 10
- Provide enhanced lighting for Jackie Robinson Park
- Provide enhanced lighting for Fred Samuels Playground
- Install dog stations around park perimeter at Colonel Young Playground
- Provide programs for educational components to facilitate school and community groups to engage youth in ecological studies in CB 10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in CB 10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in Fred Samuels Playground
- Refurbish the comfort station at Colonel Young Playground

- Repave the run around the ball park perimeter of Colonel Young
- Playground to enable walking and jogging exercises and track
- Install a grill/picnic area in Colonel Young Playground
- Provide Port-o-Sands in interim of comfort station repairs in CB 10 parks and playgrounds
- Installation of two (2) water bottle filling stations per Colonel Young Playground and Jackie Robinson Park
- Provide improved drainage in Jackie Robinson Park ball field, Colonel Young Playground and Fred Samuels Playground
- Anti-skateboarding modifications to prevent vandalism and other issues at Frederick Douglass Circle
- Relocate the adult exercise equipment in Colonel Young Playground so that it is not proximal to the children's playground areas

Outcome: The Committee will complete item priorities based upon Community input for April submission.

- D. **PEP Officer Resolution** – As an outcome of the January Committee meeting a determination was made to recommend the increased assignment of Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers to the CB 10 area. This would facilitate a greater sense of safety for residents using local area parks through enforcement of park regulations. Currently, there are two (2) officers out of a pool of 241 assigned to patrol the combined Community Boards 9, 10, 11 and 12. It is impossible for two individuals to effectively patrol and enforce park regulations for such a massive geographic area.

The drafted resolution Resolution Re: The Need For Assignment of Increased Number of Park Enforcement Patrol Officers To Manhattan Community Board 10 was discussed with the Community. In view of lack of a quorum the sentiment of favor will be conveyed to the Executive Committee that the resolution be submitted to the full Board as a voting agenda item in the March General Board Meeting.

Acceptance of January and February minutes were tabled to March in view of a lack of quorum.

The voting item; Budget Priorities was tabled as a result of new community input. The revisions will be incorporated into the existing draft. The deadline for submission is April.

The Committee **did not have quorum**. Five of the now ten standing members were absent and two members excused. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.