



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

Wednesday, November 14th, 2018, 6:30pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair
Hon. Leevert Holmes, Vice Chair

Meeting began at 6:40 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 and Karen Dixon

Committee Members Excused: Crystal Shipp, Eboni Mason and Kevin Bitterman

Committee Members Absent: Leevert Holmes, Maurice Sessoms, Henrietta Lyle, Seitu Jerel Hart and Troy Gethers

Guests in attendance: Leverne Taylor (Save A Park - Save a Child), P.O. Tasheba Miranda- 30th Precinct), Rosa Almonte (Gregorio Luperon High School), Josseine Cacere (Gregorio Luperon High School), Jeffry Rodriguez (Gregorio Luperon High School), Alan Felix (Gregorio Luperon High School), Bill Holmes (Global Community Charter School), Joshua Martinez (Gregorio Luperon High School), Judy Johnson (St. Nicholas Park North Houses), Valerie Portillo (Gregorio Luperon High School), K. Nicholson (N.A.N., Fred Samuels, Mother Zion) and Gregory Baggett.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Global Community Charter School - Bill Holmes (Chief Operating Officer)

Global Community Charter School (GCCS) serves the Harlem and surrounding community students in grades K through 5. The school is located at 2350 5th Avenue. The school has been at its current location since 2015. Their enrollment is 420 students.

The school is petitioning for the street closure of West 142nd Street between Chisum Place and 5th Avenue, Monday through Thursday from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm from March 1st, 2019 through June 29th, 2019. The proposed closure would create a “Play Street” to suffice for needed outdoor space which would accommodate the children’s school recess. The project would follow

the model set by other such Harlem schools as the Children's Storefront, St. Paul's School. GCCS does not have a playground on their school grounds and asserts that the nearby Colonel Charles Young Playground is too far from the school for the amount of time the children have for recess.

The school is suggesting that traffic going from Lenox Avenue to 5th Avenue could be re-directed right onto Chisum Place and then left onto 5th Avenue in order to access the Harlem River Drive entrance ramp. The school believes that there would be no imposition on the flow of cars other than to make two additional turns to avoid interruption of the proposed "Play Street" activity.

The westbound lane is currently utilized by the NYC Fire Department (FDNY) as an emergency corridor. The Committee advised that the school obtain approval from FDNY and complete its outreach to the surrounding community. Their contact is pending with the National Guard which has entrances on the same street and is directly across from the school. The Savoy Park and Riverbend Tenants Associations and Harlem Children's Zone were also recommended by the Committee for their support. The school is also waiting to hear from Harlem Children's Zone about the possibility of utilizing indoor space at the tennis stadium facility currently managed by Harlem Children's Zone. The school has a commitment for a letter of support from the NYC Mission Society and is pending approval for a letter from the 142nd Street Block Association.

Outcome: The school was referred to the Transportation and Education Committees. Parks and Recreation also advised that once outreach to local area stakeholders is completed that they again reach out to the District office in support of their application for the play street.

DISCUSSIONS:

A. Committee Event: Youth Sports Safety Forum

The Committee will host a Youth Sports Safety Forum in collaboration with other Central Harlem organizations to highlight the dire need for safety precautions for our local area little league athletes as they engage in sports. The event, to be hosted in the spring, will feature a 15-year veteran NFL player who will share his career pathway and address safety protocols. This will be the repeat of a very successful event held by the Committee in 2015.

Outcome: The Committee will develop a budget and details of the event.

B. A. Philip Randolph Square and Fred Samuels Playground - District Service Cabinet Follow-Up - Homelessness

The Committee discussed at length the complex components that characterize the homeless population in an effort to bring remedy to A. Philip Randolph Square and the Fred Samuels Playground.

Community Board 10's efforts to mitigate homelessness must involve a citywide, cross-agency, cross-sector strategy, incorporating governmental agencies, non-profits, and faith-based and community organizations. The homeless who utilize the parks are a different type of park user whose needs must be better accommodated through programming and outreach services.

According to the Citizens Committee for Children CB 10 ranks 17 out of 59 districts where children are at risk for economic security, health, housing, education and issues specific to teens, youth and families. Displacement impacts upon how sense of community is perceived. CB10 has 11 or more homeless shelters, providing temporary housing for families with children. The Committee determined that programming and provision of associated materials by NYC Parks would benefit our local area youth and improve outcomes for these at-risk children. Parks programming such as NYC Parks Mobile Recreational Units, Movie Night Out, Puppet Shows, Urban Park Rangers and after-school programs should be implemented on a greater scale. Social media should also be incorporated as a tool to remediate. Fred Samuels Playground needs a Playground Associate and associated programming to be instituted as soon as possible.

Fred Samuels Playground will be hosting an information fair to provide resources to persons in need of permanent housing and other social services. Brighter lights are also needed. The Fred Samuels plaque has been mistakenly posted in Frederick Johnson Playground and needs to be removed to Fred Samuels Playground.

Gregory Baggett of the Friends of A. Philip Randolph Square will continue to raise community awareness, engagement and input and keep CB10 and all concerned stakeholders abreast of any associated correspondence and outcomes. The Community Board has been asked to keep the dialogue open regarding the concerns and the address by NYC Parks, other city agencies and elected officials.

Outcome: The sentiment of the Committee will be conveyed to the Executive Committee to issue a letter to NYC Parks requesting institution of a Playground Associate and associated programming and to improve park lighting in Fred Samuels Playground.

C. Budget Priorities

The City Charter gives Community Boards a broad range of responsibilities for advising the City about local budget needs and priorities. The Charter mandates that the Community Boards consult with agencies on the district's capital and

expense budget needs, hold public hearings, prepare capital and expense budget priority lists annually, and react to the funding choices presented in the preliminary budget. The Office of Community Board Relations within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) oversees procedures that assure the Community Board's active and effective participation in forming the City's budgets.

New York City's budget year begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. Its budget consists of three components: the Revenue Budget, the Expense Budget and the Capital Budget. Additionally, the Community Development Program allocates federal money for long term physical improvements and related activities that chiefly benefit low and moderate income persons.

The agencies that formally consult with the Boards are the Department for the Aging, the Department of Buildings, Economic Development/Business Services, Environmental Protection, Fire, Housing Preservation and Development, Parks and Recreation, Police, Sanitation, Transportation, and the Human Resources.

Per the Borough Budget Consultation segment for CB 10 Parks and Recreation; MLK Playground and St. Nicholas Playground North have been completed as of FY 2018 and are open to the public. FY 2019 - FY 2021 projects; Bill Bojangles Playground and Frederick Johnson Playground, (which includes a new comfort station), are on schedule with respect to design completion and approval and are slated for procurement in the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, respectively.

Outcome: The Committee will review the budget Consultation responses at length and provide commentary via e-mail.

D. Jackie Robinson Park Without Borders Project

Jackie Robinson Park – located on West 145th Street through West 155th Street between Edgecombe and Bradhurst Avenues is a Parks Without Borders Project. The \$4,441,000 mayoral funded project will reconstruct stairways, fencing, sidewalks, and entrances in Jackie Robinson Park. The 30th Police Precinct is making the Board aware of current safety concerns.

Maintenance issues are creating prohibitive conditions for police monitoring. Overgrown trees are conducive to the conduction of nefarious activities in the park. Lighting must be kept cleans and free of bird droppings and condensation. Cameras that are located in park has been inoperable for quite some time. Broken cameras should be repaired immediately. Call boxes are also needed.

Mechanisms should be put in place to encourage community ownership and engagement to promote use of the park, such as on-going programming and

community engagement. Greater collaboration is needed between precinct crime prevention units, community affairs and the community.

Outcome: The Committee will follow the progress of the address of safety concerns as reported by the 30th precinct. P.O. Miranda will forward the detailed concerns in writing to the Committee Chair.

I. Old Business

a. Updates

- i. Harlem African Burial Ground - update is pending
- ii. Parks
 - i. Colonel Young Playground - located on West 143rd to West 145th Streets between Malcolm X Boulevard and the Harlem River Drive is a project which involves renovation of the existing ball field to a turf multi-sport field to accommodate football, soccer and Lacrosse in addition to baseball. The project is still pending. An RFP is being prepared to move the project forward.
- iii. Byrd Classic Park Renaming - Still pending per NYC Parks - Sadly the Committee was advised that Mrs. Byrd passed earlier this week while awaiting the honoring of her husband for his decades-long dedication and service to the community. NYC Parks was advised.
- iv. Seneca Village Task Force - The Task Force was launched at the first meeting held on October 29th. The next meeting will be a walkthrough of the footprint of the historic village. The group will include members of the Seneca Village Project, Central Park Conservancy, members of the Boards surrounding Central Park and CB 10 member representatives from Parks & Recreation, Arts & Culture and Historic Landmarks & Preservation.
- v. Nelson Mandela Garden - The Gardeners are fighting in Court and are asking for Community to appear in support of their case in NYS Supreme Court.
- vi. Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden - The ULURP was passed unanimously by the full Board at the November 7th CB 10 General Meeting

v. Announcements

- i. Jackie Robinson Park - "Parks Without Borders" Groundbreaking - November 28th at 11:00 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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

