



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Chairperson

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 8th, 2017, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, 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, Troy Gethers, Crystal Shipp, Henrietta Lyle and Leevert Holmes

Committee Members Excused: Maurice Sessoms and Kevin Bitterman

Committee Members Absent: Arian Punter, Mark Bones and Derrick Graham

Board Members in Attendance: Raquel Vazquez

Guests in attendance: Don Williams (Harlem Goju), Delsenia Glover, Jamil Phillip, Edward, Precious Ramos (Hansborough), Jennifer Gucci (The New School), LaVerne J. Williams (LT-ACT), Herbert King (Hansborough), Cristal Tejada (Hansborough), Anthony Carter, Sandra Cobb (LT-ACT), Ronnie Ojesa (Hansborough), Paul L. Covington (Hansborough), Segbemba Murray (Hansborough), Maynardmae Charles (Hansborough) and Steve Simon (Manhattan Chief of Staff -NYC Parks)

DISCUSSIONS

A. HANSBOROUGH RECREATION CENTER RESOLUTION

The meeting was attended by residents of the Lenox Terrace Tenants Association and members of Hansborough who utilize a variety of programs and amenities at the facility as well as the Director.

The Community expressed concern regarding issues, i.e., (1) construction and closure of the facility, (2) instability of the elevator, (3) possible need for boiler replacement, (4) air conditioning system and (5) fee affordability.

The facility will not be closed for construction. Affected areas will be blocked off and ventilated. A recent Department of Labor inspection substantiated that asbestos is not present. The vendor for the elevator maintenance has been changed and elevator has been functioning without problems for the last three months; however will be replaced at a later date. Emmissions from the boiler have improved since a complaint was addressed two years ago by the Parks Department. Parks will investigate any maintenance issues which may be attributable to any current concerns with respect to the boiler and air conditioning system. Rates will be maintained per NYC Parks Department general rate guidelines and will not be increased due to capital improvements.

The drafted resolution was returned to Committee at the January full Board Meeting to substantiate Community support. The Lenox Terrace Development, consists of 6 buildings; housing 1,716 apartments, was represented at the meeting by residents who were greatly enthused about the project. The Tenants Association was provided with a copy of the NYC Parks Department Hansborough Recreation Center Renovations Presentation, outlining the proposed renovations in advance of the meeting. The Lenox Terrace Tenant Association will provide a letter of support.

As a component of the project, programming expansion will include educational initiatives for youth such as chess and college preparation. Parks advised that the project has an updated estimate of \$4 million.

In addition, the original artist for the Hansborough mural will be contacted to complete the existing mural.

Outcome: A Committee vote was not taken because at the time of the vote a quorum was not present, as one Member had to leave early. The Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and will be conveyed to the Executive Committee in recommendation of the revised drafted resolution (amended to reflect the increased cost estimate) for a vote by the full board at the March 1st Community Board Meeting.

B. PARK RESOURCE EVENT

The Committee is continuing its plans to organize and implement an outdoor event to highlight NYC Parks Department resources in the Colonel Young Playground. The family-oriented event will appeal to all age groups. The Spring event will feature information tabling, music, light refreshments, giveaways and children's activities.

Outcome: The Committee will be contacting NYC Parks Department for the permit and invitation of Park agencies and affiliates to provide tabling.

C. 197-A PLAN – PARKS AND RECREATION COMPONENT

A presentation was made by Raquel Vazquez of the 197-A Taskforce explaining the concept of the 197-A plan and to provide examples. The Committee also distributed, as an example, a copy of the Parks and Recreation segment for Community Board 9's 197-A Plan.

Per the NYC Planning Commission: "One of the formal ways to develop a community-based plan is set out in Section 197-a of the City Charter, which authorizes community boards and borough boards, along with the Mayor, the City Planning Commission (the "Commission"), the Department of City Planning ("DCP"), and any Borough President, to sponsor plans for the development, growth, and improvement of the city, its boroughs and communities. Once approved by the Commission and adopted by the City Council, 197-a plans guide

future actions of city agencies in the areas addressed in the plans. Neighborhood or civic groups within the larger community may draft a 197-a plan, but they must be approved, sponsored, and submitted by a community board, borough board, or borough president.

The Taskforce will partner with the Board Committees to develop with identification and outreach to organizations that can inform individual Committee-specific issues and concerns.

The Taskforce will provide a questionnaire to each Committee to support the process.

Outcome: The Committee will review the distributed copy of the Parks and Recreation segment of Community Board 9's 197-A Plan and will discuss prior to the March meeting.

D. FREDERICK DOUGLASS CIRCLE MODIFICATION – LETTER OF SUPPORT

The group has submitted additional letters of support and the Committee consensus is that Community support has been substantiated.

Outcome: A Committee vote was not taken because at the time of the vote a quorum was not present as one Member had to leave early. Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and to issue a letter of support. The sentiment will be conveyed to the Executive Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NYC Parks Department found an additional \$300,000 to fund the fence installation which remained from a previous allocation to be applied to the Parks Without Borders Project for Jackie Robinson Park

The Committee **did have quorum**, however not at the time of voting, as a Committee Member had to leave early. Five of the now ten standing members were not in attendance. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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