



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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May 2, 2018

**Manhattan Community Board 10 Resolution Regarding
Bill “Bojangles” Robinson Playground Parks Renovation Project**

WHEREAS Bill Bojangles Robinson Playground is located in Manhattan Community Board 10 at West 150th Street between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevards; and

WHEREAS the Community Parks Initiative (CPI) project will completely reconstruct Bill “Bojangles” Robinson Playground; and

WHEREAS the project design will make improvements to the seating area, playground and basketball court and will include:

- Restoration of the existing mural, plaque and low stone retaining wall that commemorate Bill Robinson. (Note that the mural and associated plaque are registered together as an official city monument.)
- An increase of the play dimensions of the basketball court as required to accommodate the community’s youth basketball programming needs.
- The installation of new backstops, asphalt pavement, color sealcoat and metal bleachers for spectator seating to the basketball court.
- The installation of new play equipment, benches and safety surfacing over new asphalt pavement.
- The installation of new benches, game tables, a bottle-filler with hi/low drinking fountain basins, and concrete pavers to the seating area.
- The installation of featured dance step graphics on the ground which will encourage park visitors to attempt and appreciate one of Bill Robinson’s famous tap dance sequences known as the “Crossover Step”.
- Fencing will be minimized and the seating area near the mural will remain open at all times in keeping with the “Parks Without Borders” initiative.
- Provisions for all areas of the park that will meet or exceed ADA requirements for accessibility.

WHEREAS sustainable design features will include:

- Increased permeability and native vegetation
- Additional shade trees and improved conditions for existing shade trees
- High-albedo surfaces
- Use of recycled content materials
- Energy efficient light fixtures; and

WHEREAS a public charrette was held on October 25th, 2017 which included the collaboration of New York City Parks Department architects, designers, engineers and the local community;

WHEREAS on April 11th, 2018 the City's Department of Parks presented to the Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee on proposed designs for the Bill "Bojangles" Robinson Playground which incorporated community input; and

WHEREAS the City's Department of Parks will return to the June 13th, 2018 Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee to present a proposed final design incorporating further community input for the Bill "Bojangles" Playground; and

WHEREAS the proposed renovations and park design will upgrade the active play amenities, enhance the environmental qualities of the site, facilitate increased passive recreational use of the site, clarify user circulation and improve the experience of arriving at and entering the park; and

WHEREAS the average time for construction is 12-18 months. The construction timeline for this specific contract will be established at the conclusion of the procurement phase; and

WHEREAS the mayoralty funded project is estimated to cost between \$1 million and \$3 million; and

WHEREAS improving public parks and open space is integral to livable communities and has a direct impact on the everyday quality of life for our residents, from fighting blight to facilitating physical activity and better health in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS CB 10 urges the Central Park Conservancy to incorporate play equipment with features that engage mobility and/or sensory-challenged children; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on May 2, 2018, that Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the City's efforts to upgrade, through renovations and new designs Bill "Bojangles" Robinson Playground with a vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.