

Minutes – Parks and Cultural Affairs committee October 7nd, 2014

Committee members attending: Mitch Glenn (Chair), James Berlin, Kelley Boyd, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter, Juan Mejia, Patti Jacobs

Board Members attending: Osi Kaminer, Arlene Shulman, Lorenzo McGougan

Meeting begins at 7:34

Mitch Glenn, Chair, introduces the committee and introduces the new public member Patti Jacobs. Welcomes the public and describes the budget prioritization process that the committee will use in tonight meeting.

1. BUDGET PRIORITIZATION

Mitchell Glenn directed the committee and public to review the budget items to be prioritized, and to add any additional items they may wish to be considered for inclusion. Discussion with the public and Ms. Hoppa included the following:

Capital budget items must exceed \$35,000

Parks does not have a Capital Budget at all so we are dependent on local elected officials for budget.

It was discussed that virtually all of the comfort stations in the district are in need of renovation or retrofitting to be ADA compliant. It was determined that consolidation of the individual requests by park would better serve the needs of the community.

Several items were added to the projects list and are additionally noted as NEW* on the table.

Committee members were given adhesive dots to apply to the projects to represent their level of support, one page for expense, one page for capital. The tabulations were made and the vote was as follows for Expense expenditures:

| Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee | | | VOTES |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| NEW | Dedicated Forestry Crew for CD 12 | 1 | 41 |
| 3122005 09E | Fund additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) (DPR) | 2 | 32 |
| 3122011 03E | Fund additional staff for Sanitation, Maintenance & Operations, Horticulture | 2 | 32 |
| NEW* | Master Gardener at Morris Jumel Mansion | 4 | 29 |
| NEW | Fund enhanced digital surveillance in parks | 5 | 26 |
| 3122011 04E | Increase funding for after school programs at J. Hood Wright, Highbridge and Inwood Parks | 6 | 17 |

The tabulations were made and the vote was unanimous for CAPITAL expenditures:

| Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee | | | |
|---|--|----|----|
| 312201 005C | Highbridge: Repair the stairs, pointing, windows and carillon in the Water Tower | 1 | 27 |
| NEW | Jumel Mansion: ADA compliant ramp(s) and bathroom facilities, HVAC and digital/cabling access capabilities | 2 | 25 |
| NEW | CD12: Funding for more Wi-Fi locations first in the southern tier parks | 2 | 25 |
| NEW* | Highbridge: Sunken Playground + Lighting + Pathways (S) | 4 | 23 |
| NEW* | CD 12 Renovate or Retrofit for ADA Compliance in Comfort Facilities | 5 | 22 |
| NEW | Inwood Hill Park: Renovate and repair the Nature Center | 6 | 18 |
| NEW | Highbridge Park (165th and Edgecombe: New Adventure Playground, ADA compliant comfort station & BBQ area | 7 | 17 |
| NEW* | CD12: Science Barge | 7 | 17 |
| 3122011 04C | Javits Playground in Fort Tryon Park: Renovate | 9 | 16 |
| NEW | Dyckman Farmhouse: roof repairs | 9 | 16 |
| NEW | Ft Washington Park: Pathways btwn water & park 165th-179th Streets | 11 | 12 |
| NEW | Ft. Wash Park: Path from 176th & Haven to tennis courts | 11 | 12 |
| NEW | Fort Washington Park: Rehab Comfort Station as per PlaNYC | 13 | 11 |
| 3122011 05C | Hispanic Society of America: Fund renovations & ADA compliance efforts | 14 | 10 |
| 3122004 15C | Inwood Hill, Highbridge and Fort Tryon Parks: Reconstruct park pathways and paving | 14 | 10 |
| NEW | Inwood Hill Park Lighting for Tennis and Basketball Courts | 16 | 6 |
| 3122011 05C | Bennett Park: Complete Phase II Renovation | 16 | 6 |
| NEW* | Ft. Tryon: Water Service to Dog Run Fountain repair btwn New Leaf Café and Broadway Promenade | 16 | 6 |
| NEW | J. Hood Wright: Fund the renovation of the Multi-Purpose Play Area into a soccer field | 19 | 5 |
| NEW | Inwood Hill Park: Ball field Renovations | 19 | 5 |
| 3122004 12C | Gorman Park: Reconstruct stone stairway, paving, planting, and benches | 21 | 3 |
| NEW | Msgr. Kett Playground: Rehabilitate | 22 | 1 |
| NEW | Muscota Marsh storage containers Boating facility | 23 | 0 |
| 3122010 04C | Fort Washington Park at 165th Street and RSD Dog Run: Install lighting and drinking fountain | 23 | 0 |
| NEW | Sherman Creek: NYRP Phase II clean-up & waterfront access | 23 | 0 |

2. MISSION STATEMENT

Parks and Cultural Affairs had been tasked with developing a Mission Statement. Through an iterative process including all committee members and with input from the public, the following was determined as a representative draft of Community Board 12's PCA Mission and will be wordsmith'd to be easily understood and grammatically correct. Richard Lewis will create the resolution.

Parks and Cultural Affairs is here to:

1. Promote uptown artists and cultural organizations.
2. Work with the community, NYC Parks, elected officials and local organizations to protect and improve uptown parks and maintain them as gems of the entire city.
3. Advocate for open space and cultural needs of the community to enhance the quality of life, and hence, public health.

3. NYC PARKS UPDATE: Jennifer Hoppa gave updates on the various capital projects in Northern Manhattan Parks. Community Board 12 has had over \$150 M in capital investments since 2006.

A) Community Parks Initiative:

Announced the Community Parks Initiative, a multi-faceted program to invest in under-resourced public parks located in New York City's densely populated and growing neighborhoods with higher-than-average concentrations of poverty. This is separate from the \$780M in capital project currently underway addressing a total of 420 projects. NYC Parks is applying this framework to the 10yr Capital Program. CPI's first phase will target 35 community parks through a \$130 million capital investment that promotes the full re-creation of these parks, \$7.2 million in expense funding for Fiscal Year 2015, and \$36.3 million in capital funding from the Department of Environmental Protection for green infrastructure improvements at these sites. CPI's first phase will target 55 neighborhoods across the five boroughs, reaching approximately 220,000 New Yorkers living within a 10-minute walk of the targeted parks. In its entirety, the initiative's first phase represents over \$173 million in capital and expense funding.

B. Capital Projects

1. Inwood Nature Center: Public Restrooms now need to have their water service connected back to 218th Street. Parks Engineers will do the designs for the work and the goal is to have it completed for next summer.
Nature Center Reconstruction: Parks will soon finalize its negotiations with FEMA on the type and extent of reimbursements. The project has been re-categorized to expedite the redesign and construction. Councilmember Rodriguez has provided \$500k to help fund the building's reconstruction. A full public review and competitive bidding process for construction will need to occur, a process which generally means 3 years from start to finish.
- 2) The High Bridge: DDC continues to work on the reconstruction with a projected completion date of December 2014, but more likely Spring 2015
- 3) Highbridge Skate Park: Parks and SDOT are working on final punch list items. The facility will likely become available to the public at the end of November.
- 4) Morris Jumel Mansion: Contractors continue to reconstruct the perimeter sidewalks and retaining walls. Construction duration is slated to be complete June 2015.

- 5) Isham Park Water Service: Construction is progressing at the site. Potential find of archaeological value in the oyster shells, so the contractor has been directed to stop any excavation/trenching. NYC Parks is coordinating with archaeologists on staff at the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- 6) Highbridge Water Tower: Design/Engineering for the stabilization project is underway and with public reviews, is expected to be complete in 10 months. Bidding out for construction will follow.
- 7) Fort Tryon Park pathways below cottage: construction is advancing; project is slated to be complete June 2015.

C. Programming

- 1) 30th Anniversary Medieval Festival on 9/28 was a huge success. 70,000 people in attendance, 9 stages and over 100 performances. WHDC and NYC Parks collaborated to bring one of the smoothest and best Medieval Festivals in history. Parks Commissioner Silver honored WHDC Board Chairman Joe Laufer and Executive Director Dennis Reeder for their 30 years of incredible service to the community and Fort Tryon Park by presenting them with Kingdom signs. Precinct also did an amazing job. Dennis Reeder couldn't be here tonight and he wanted me to make sure to let you all know he thanks Parks and the 34th
- 2) Natural Areas Conservancy event on 9/21 was a huge success, with over 50 people coming out in the rain to learn about NAC's ecological assessment of Inwood Hill Park and future Forest Service and NYC Parks surveying and management planning. NYC Parks/Million Trees will be bringing 150 volunteers to Inwood Hill Park on October 25th. If you want to volunteer sign up through NYC Parks or NY Cares' website.
- 3) Huge shout-out to the Shorokapok Earth Keepers, many of whom dedicate dozens of hours each month volunteering in the forest.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Update on the "No-Wake Zone" at Spuyten Duyvil

For the most concise background on the Harlem River No Wake Zone, I would refer you directly to the source: the 2005 [NYC.GOV](http://www.nyc.gov) press release is linked here: <http://tinyurl.com/qzy3c5p> and the bill itself, 495-A. The Harlem River No Wake Zone is really comprised of *two* sections, one of which does encompass Muscota Marsh:

4. b. Swindler Cove and that portion of the Harlem River running from the University Heights Bridge southerly to the High Bridge; and that portion of the Harlem River between the Spuyten Duyvil trestle and the Broadway Bridge are hereby designated "No Wake Areas."

The Coast Guard gets involved in wake violations only when damage to property can be demonstrated. In the bill 495-A Parks is mentioned alongside the New York Police Department in relation to enforcement, however Parks is not really equipped to act as an enforcement agency. The burden for enforcing these regulations does largely fall on the shoulders of the New York Police Department's Harbor Unit.

If you are out on the water and observe an issue that requires law enforcement you can hail the Harbor Unit on VHF channel 17 or 16, or by calling 911/311. If you need to report damage or injury caused by a wake you can contact the Coast Guard at [718-354-4141](tel:718-354-4141)."

Further update was delivered verbally during the meeting via Ms. Liz Ritter with the take away being that Parks is willing to devote resources to the community vis-à-vis seminars on boating safety and relevant laws, as well via vessel safety inspections for the community at no charge.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New York Open House Weekend - www.ohny.org/weekend/overview: OHNY Weekend unlocks the doors to New York's most important buildings, offering an extraordinary opportunity to experience the city and meet the people who design, build, and preserve New York. OHNY Weekend deepens our

understanding of the importance of architecture and urban design to foster a more vibrant civic life and helps catalyze a citywide conversation about how to build a better New York.

New York Restoration Project FALL FEST: Thursday October 30, 2014: Kick off Halloween with outdoor activities that are sure to treat, not trick! Explore Sherman Creek Park from 2:30 – 5:30 and stay for a screening of the spooky-fun classic Hocus Pocus at 6:15pm.

DOG RUN DRESS UP – October 25, 2014 10:45 – 12:00pm. Costume contest for dogs and their owners. Prizes awarded.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: <http://mommypoppins.com/kids/fall-harvest-festivals-pumpkin-patches-corn-mazes-and-hayrides-right-here-in-new-york-city-2014> Various Events and Locations throughout NYC

IT'S MY PARK DAY: http://www.nycgovparks.org/events/its_my_park_day: It's My Park Day works with hundreds of community parks groups to lead clean up events in neighborhood parks all across the city. There are various events in CB12. Check the website for details.

6. ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 9:38