

Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee
November 1, 2016

Committee Members Present: Osi Kaminer, Assistant Chair; Natalie Espino; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Richard Lewis; Karen Taylor. **Committee Members Excused:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Daryl Cochrane. **Others in Attendance:** Omar <lastname illegible>; Vera Sims; Alex Arévalo; Quincy France; George Bloomer; Yampiero Polanco; Leatt Beder-Galtier, Jennifer Hoppa, & Charles Edwards, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Steven Harris & Trish Anderson, Inwood Canoe Club.

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks & Announcements (Osi Kaminer, Assistant Chair)
 - Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.
 - Report on CB12 ranking of PCA capital & expense items not ready but will be circulated once it comes out of the Board office.
 - Visioning meeting for Audubon Playground, Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30pm at the Highbridge Rec. Center (2301 Amsterdam Ave. @ W. 173rd St.)
 - Visioning meeting for Highbridge Park \$30M expenditure, Monday, November 28th at 6:30pm, also at the Highbridge Rec. Center
 - Other upcoming events
2. NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Dyckman Green Gym (Leatt Beder-Galtier, Senior Landscape Architect, NYC Parks Capital Division)

Green gym proposed for Inwood Hill Park initially budgeted at \$100k though NYC Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez through the Participatory Budgeting (PB) process. C/M Rodriguez awarded additional funds to total \$250k. Despite ADA accessibility challenge for location the planned project is 80% ADA accessible with 50% ADA accessible equipment. The design uses brown and green to blend into surroundings.

Committee member Richard Lewis expressed concerns about ADA accessible equipment offering only static resistance rather than aerobic exercise. PB Committee that sponsored the proposal responded that some disabled people prefer stable/static equipment and adjust intensity in order to get cardio workout. Usability by disabled depends on the disabled users' experience and what training they can get. All committee members asked questions about the size and capacity of the proposed configuration. No dimensions or specifications were provided on presentation. The architects could not elaborate or provide those details.

Members of the public expressed concerns about heat resistant reflective surface would it be black top or something more state of the art. Specialists were not sure. The committee agreed that it did not have enough information for a resolution at this time and asks that architects to return with full specifications on and each piece of equipment as well as precise dimensions.

Osi Kaminer suggested that Parks connect with the Participatory Budget Committee and to the BarStarzz group which advocated for this project, to come to an agreement on details. Richard asked why Parks only provided information from one manufacturer, Miracle. Parks replied that the City must use only vendors that have applied to be vendors and vetted through the City's VENDEX system, and Miracle is the only one that had. Many had questions and concerns about the city's VENDEX process; Ms. Hoppa said she would provide information to share with Committee members and attendees.

3. Capital & Programming update for Northern Manhattan Parks by Jennifer Hoppa

- Reiterated invitation to participate in the scoping meeting for Audubon Playground (\$7.7m) and the visioning for the Highbridge Park (\$30m) improvements. These are two big allocations.
- Inwood Nature Center project water line is still going through procurement process and due diligence with contractors; this means work likely won't begin until Spring 2017.
- Design work has not yet started for the J. Hood Wright park green gym.
- Construction contract has been awarded, but not registered for Staircase 50 in Fort Tryon Park behind Anne Loftus Playground.
- Inwood Grant Deadline for City Parks Foundation grants is tonight; next round submission deadline is March 1, 2017.
- NYC Small Business Services Just released a grant; one initiative is supporting greening business districts and street trees in commercial corridors
- Danza Heights in the Highbridge Pool was a big success; reminded everyone that High Bridge Park is open to performing arts, though they would need permits.
- Holiday installations in parks also require permits which can be secured from NYC Parks on-line or by calling the Manhattan Special Events Office.
- See NYC Parks website for calendar for upcoming events, including the Battle of Fort Washington Commemoration on November 12th at noon, and the "Evolving Terrain" sculpture exhibit also in Fort Tryon Park (and recently featured in the New York Times), as well as the upcoming Inwood Hill Park Stewardship Days.

4. Old Business / New Business / Mail / Announcements / Adjourn

There was no old business or mail. A neighborhood group has organized to clean and beautify the Riverside Drive / 157th St. Green Street triangle, and would like support from Community Board or other agencies. Jennifer Hoppa will connect them to the NYC Parks Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Espino & Liz Ritter