

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

Committee members present: Osi Kaminer, Asst Chair; Barbara Frazier; Mitchell Glenn; Richard Lewis.
Committee member excused: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair. **Public Member Present:** Natalie Espino.

Community Members Present: Katherine Bridges and Ricardo Hinkle, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Capital Division; Jennifer Hoppa, NYC DPR Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator; Michael Klein, Rob Diaz, Robert Prouse, Shakare Petteway, George Komendi, Henry Rieser, Shawn Folz, Ricardo Irrizarry, Edward Checo, Ronny Comendo, Joel Yoffie, Ar Wegener, Jose Tineo, Nancy Bruning, Abdourahman Jallow, Bill Pape.

Assistant Chair Osi Kaminer brings the meeting to order at 715pm.

1. Jennifer Hoppa, DPR Capital Projects Update
 - a) Inwood Hill Nature Center. Funded. First Community Scope meeting convened in early February. Based on input from that meeting, Parks designers will get to work and return to present later this spring. Goals include making the building more storm resilient, and also making the Nature Center a teaching tool about resiliency.
 - b) Inwood Hill Nature Center Bathrooms – Water line project (\$800k) is scheduled to go into construction in late fall.
 - c) Payson Avenue Retaining Wall is being repaired under an emergency contract.
 - d) MJM Mansion retaining wall and sidewalks – work complete. Façade work and ADA ramp now funded and work to begin soon.
 - e) Fencing along Amtrak tracks south of Dyckman being installed. Work has begun.
 - f) Eco dock at La Marina. Construction estimated at \$1.3mm based on current design but only \$750,000 has been allocated from city. DPR will be reaching out to elected officials for the remainder of the cost.

2. Katherine Bridges, Ricardo Hinkle DPR Capital Division – Jacob Javits Playground schematic design update
 - a) Last reconstruction 1990
 - b) Community Priorities: active recreation, including for adults.
 - c) Room is being set aside for a comfort station (though no guarantee it will be built).
 - d) 2 concept diagrams were displayed, flipping basketball courts and children’s active space east and west. Katherine needs us to decide tonight as to which concept to move forward with, hoping to return for the June meeting with a detailed design.
 - e) DPR prefers the basketball courts on the Fort Washington (east) side of the park. This is called Concept Design 2. One benefit of this configuration is much larger adult and preteen activity space.
 - f) Local resident Mike Davis is concerned about Concept 2 with basketball courts at east end of playground. Too much noise is already generated with the courts at the west end. Some people disagreed with this analysis. Some felt that the basketball sounds would be reduced with the courts on the East side. Others felt there would be no difference. A request was made to DPR to do some acoustical engineering studies.
 - g) Other concerns about bringing the basketball courts to the east include danger to parents and children crossing over to children’s spaces.

- h) Joel Yoffie would like to see the courts on Fort Washington, for the 'romance' of watching basketball.
- i) The position of 2 community members who are mothers of young children is that they would like to see the children's play area more enclosed. Concept 2, with the playground at the west end, is preferred.
- j) Most of the community attendees stated that they preferred the current layout, a/k/a Concept 1, with the basketball court to the west. A variation on that wish was a desire to see the basketball court moved 3-5 feet south to accommodate more room for the adult activity area.
- k) There was a brief discussion on the differences between full ADA accessibility and compliance of all the park elements such as to create a safe harbor by law.
- l) Committee brought the Concepts to a vote, so as not to delay DPR's work.
Vote totals:
 - i. Committee: 1 for concept 1; 3 for Concept 2.
 - ii. Public member abstains.
 - iii. Public vote: 11 for concept 1; 4 for concept 2; 4 abstentions.
- m) Committee Member Richard Lewis to develop a resolution for consideration at the general meeting on March 22nd that will encompass the Committee Vote and all community input for design changes in Concept 2.
- n) DPR, in preparation for the General Meeting, will do acoustic analysis to determine the impact of moving the basketball court to Fort Washington Avenue.
- o) Katherine would like to come back in June with a more complete design.
- p) Construction could begin as soon as June 2017 and will last for one year.

3) Osi mentions future agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.