

Waterfront/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 7 , 2012 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor
Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Co-Chair), Brad Taylor (Co-Chair), Savona Bailey-McClain, Carol Singleton

CB9 Public member in attendance: Jen Silverman

Presentations and discussions:

An update was given by gardeners who are participating in the new lottery system for garden plots at Riverbank State Park. Some of the garden plot participants who have had garden plots in previous years haven't been notified of the new protocol for the lottery. It was pointed out that a new regional director Karen Phillips has been appointed to oversee the park. Board members Savona Bailey-McClain and Brad Taylor both are acquainted with Ms. Phillips and urged patience on the part of the gardeners as Ms. Phillips implements new procedures in the administration of the park. It was also pointed out that Spanish speaking gardeners were not sent notifications in Spanish. No Spanish language versions of the flyer announcing the lottery were distributed. Carol Singleton gave an update on several alternative sites for gardeners that may not be given plots at Riverbank State Park. An extensive discussion ensued on ways to help distribute food grown in community garden plots to agencies that have food pantries and soup kitchens for the needy.

Next on the agenda was an update by community gardener Jennie Benitez and the lack of a sidewalk near the community garden plot. founded by her adjacent to Riverside Park on 12th Avenue. There was discussion on the need for speed bumps to reduce the speed of traffic along 12th Avenue. Public member Jen Silverman will attend the next Transportation Committee meeting to address the issue of the lack of a sidewalk in the area.

Brad Taylor gave an update on the lack of lighting along the Cherry Walk bicycle path.

Brad Taylor gave a brief update on the committee accomplishments achieved this year.

Arnold Boatner outlined 2 goals being pursued by the committee this year:

- 1) The dog run proposal being pursued with the parks department.
- 2) Public forum on development of the waterfront

Brad Taylor outlined an upcoming meeting between community members in favor and opposed to the barbecuing policy in Morningside Park. As extensive discussion followed on the issue of why this issue keeps coming up every year.

Jen Silverman announced details of an upcoming Youth & Education Committee youth fair.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm

Submitted by Arnold Boatner