

Waterfront/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 2, 2011 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor
Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

CB 9 members in attendance: Arnold Boatner, Brad Taylor, Savona Bailey-McClain, Carole Singleton, Javier Carcamo

Public attendees: Basia Nikouorow, Elizabeth Burnett, Gerald "Stan" Hitchens, Diana Lama, Michael Palma, Brooks Nicholson, Victoria Benitez, Jenny Benitez, Murthana Brocew (s?)

Minutes of October 2011 Meeting adopted

Presentations and discussions:

- 1) Proposed dog run in Riverside Park. Brooks Nicholson presented his proposal for a dog run in Riverside Park. He has a petition from 122 dog owners in the neighborhood requesting a dog run at 143rd in Riverside Park. Brad Taylor and Savona Bailey-McClain gave an historical overview of efforts to establish a dog run in Riverside Park near 143rd Street. Discussion that followed centered on potential areas and options to explore including completion of unfinished dog run as well as two additional areas near the dog run that would require additional construction and funding. Parks representative Elizabeth Burnett gave an update on parks department discussions with Nicholson's group. Committee to pursue support for dog run in budget priorities and continues discussions with dog run proponents.
- 2) Parks department representative Elizabeth Burnett next gave an update on capital projects in parks in CB9. A number of capital projects have lost funding or won't be funded until 2012 or even 2013. Committee members complained that no follow-up notifications concerning projects that had lost funding were not being reported back to parks committee. There was a request that updates be given to committee on a more regular basis. John Herald, parks administrator and Joe Rusiello the parks district manager will be invited to speak at an upcoming meeting.
- 3) Arnold Boatner and Savona Bailey-McClain gave an update on Young Urban Foresters Training Program in cooperation with Economic Development committee. Boatner requested that attendees spread word about program and announced that program has been expanded beyond community board 9 areas to cover all of Manhattan.
- 4) Savona Bailey-McClain requested an effort be made to get more winter sports activities in city parks. Lively discussion followed on where activities can be held.

New Business:

- 1) Diana Lama a community volunteer has been spearheading an effort to clean up the median on Riverside Drive in front of the Fortune Society. She also asked for the committee's support in her attempts to utilize the greenhouse in Riverbank State Park. She has a community garden in the park currently. The park administration has been using the greenhouse as a tool shed and she urged community board 9 support for utilizing it as a greenhouse. She said the park administration told her it would cost \$40,000 to rehabilitate the greenhouse for use by the community. She is holding a community meeting on November 17th. Parks committee to explore a resolution of support for her that will be presented at the December CB9 general board meeting.
- 2) Brad Taylor has been working with State Senator Espaillet's office that a notification system be implemented by DEP to let the public know about environmental accidents like the fire and explosion at Riverbank State Park. A resolution of support will be asked for at the December general board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40pm