



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Jerry Iannece Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: All Board Members
From: Lee Fiorino and Edith Basom, Co- Chairs
Re: Alley Pond Environmental Center New Building
Kompan Park Equipment
New Yorkers for Parks- Parks Platform 2013
Date: June 4, 2013

On June 3, 2013, the Parks Committee met to discuss the above-referenced items. Present at the meeting were Lee Fiorino and Edith Basom Committee Co-Chairs, Christine Haider 1st Vice Chair, Christina Scherer, Henry Euler, Jyothi Sriram, Roy Giusetti, Rob Liatto, Elizabeth Renner, Paul DiBenedetto, Community Assistant, Christina Coutinho, Mike Agnello, Northeast Queens Park Administer, Joe Block, Parks Manager, Julie Nymann, Deputy Director of Architecture for NYC Parks, Jeff LaRue, Sales Representative from Kompan.

Julie Nymann, presented the primarily design for the new APEC building. Ms. Nymann stated that a new building will be erected because the foundation on the existing building has settled so much that it would not be cost effective to renovate. In addition, APEC wants to remain open during the construction. They are also constructing the new building with the new flood resiliency building requirements. The construction will start in the Fall of 2014 and take approximately two years. Parks is working with DEP to help make the water pumping station, adjacent to APEC more attractive. Improvements will be made during this construction project. The building will be environmentally friendly. Rain water will be captured from a sloped roof. Bioswales will be constructed in the parking lot to minimize rain water run-off into the sewers. The parking lot will have 2-4 night-sky compliant lights. These maximize the use of low-wattage bulbs in open areas. Bike racks and a drinking fountain will be added outside the building. Classrooms will be located on the southside of the building overlooking the wetlands. Discussion followed and board members asked if solar panels would be installed. Ms. Nymann said that they are costly to install and too expensive for DPR to maintain on a regular basis. Christine Haider requested additional handicapped parking spaces. The building is designed for 49 parking spaces including two handicapped spaces, as required by zoning code. It was explained that on weekdays part of the lot will be reserved for school buses and therefore, only 39 parking spaces will be available at that time. Henry Euler pointed out that a traffic signal has been requested for the entrance to APEC. Christina Coutinho advised the committee that the DOT does have that request but in case the driveway is moved, DOT was deferring a decision.

A motion was made to approve these primarily design plans with the following conditions: that more handicapped parking spaces be provided, that solar panels be installed and a traffic light be installed at the entrance. Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jeff LaRue gave a presentation about Kompan Outdoor Park Gym Equipment. Kompan offers solutions for all aspects of playground development. Designs are for children of all ages, children with special needs and adult equipment as well. Kompan will help communities apply for grants for park equipment funding. Mr. LaRue said that their playgrounds have been installed all over the city at various developments, both public and private.

Lee Fiorino presented information given by New Yorkers for Parks, a not-for-profit citywide organization that is requesting the endorsement from Community Boards and individuals to make park issues a priority for Mayoral and City Council candidates running for office in 2013. The 10-point Parks Platform 2013 was reviewed by Committee Co-Chair Lee Fiorino. This summer New Yorkers for Parks will be holding meetings in each borough. A motion was made to endorse the 10-point Parks Platform 2013. The motion was passed by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.