



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2008 @ 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Nora Feury, Helene Hartman, Margaret Mack, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Barbara Stronczer, Paul Foster

Committee Members Absent: 0

Guests: See sign-in sheet.

The meeting opened with a review of upcoming events. The 6th Annual Parks Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at 14 Vesey Street. (9:00-11:00A.M.) The "Learning through an Expanded Arts Program" (LEAP) was discussed. Students' projects from our area will be on display at St. James Park throughout the summer months. The exhibit will open on Tuesday, June 10th at 10:00A.M.

Leon Fendley from the Parks Department gave an overview of the park projects being done as a result of the filtration funding:

Williamsbridge Oval – The track and field is 70% completed. The area should be completed by July of this year. Work on the playgrounds to both sides of the recreation building will begin in the late summer. The recreation building will see work in the fall. Once the work is completed, bathrooms will be accessible when the building is closed. Roof, window work, and landscaping will also be completed.

St. James Park – Currently work is being done of the sidewalk, entrance area, and the playground. Drainage in the oval area is being addressed. 35-40% of the work is done. Sept. '08 is slated for the completion of the work.

Devoe Park – Work has been completed and the park is open to the public. Mr. Fendley will follow-up on the lighting problem with the contractor. The comfort station at the eastern end of the park will be rehabilitated soon.

Harris Field – Work has started on fields 1 & 2. The two fields near the Bronx High School of Science will be done in synthetic turf. The other 4 fields will be natural turf. Planting will take place on the sloping areas. The comfort station will need to be closed during some of the work. The Parks Dept. is hoping to supply portable toilets for the leagues that use the fields. The work should take about 18 months to be completed.

Aqueduct Walk – The Community Board will receive design work in about 3 months.

Regatta Park Waterfront - \$1.63 million has been appropriated. The Parks Dept. is waiting for DOT to transfer some land.

Illegal Barbecuing on Mosholu Parkway: The Parks Dept. is currently posting "No Barbecuing" signs along the Parkway. Flyers are being completed by Councilperson Koppell's office. A committee from the Bedford Mosholu Community Assn. will meet with the Police and Parks Dept. On May 1st.

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Fernando Tirado announced that Mosholu Parkway would be closed for the Bronx Day Parade and Festival. The condition of the sidewalk along Jerome Avenue between Mosholu Parkway South and North was discussed. Parks, DOT, and the MTA have been neglecting to clean the area. Mr. Tirado will address the issue with these agencies.

Staffing Levels for the Summer Season: Arnyce Foster discussed the availability of the alternative work force during this summer. There will be sufficient mobile crews to address maintenance in the parks. Garbage receptacles have been placed on Mosholu Parkway from Gun Hill Road to Van Cortlandt Avenue. Parks will try to provide daily garbage pick-up in CB#7 parks during the summer but this plan will depend upon the number of trucks which are operable.

Farmer's Market: Maritza Owens discussed her plans to initiate a farmer's market in the area of Mosholu Parkway North and Jerome Avenue. The market would operate on Wednesdays. Arnyce Foster promised to discuss the parking of the trucks with the Commissioner and report her findings to the Board.

Motion #1: The Parks' Committee recommends that the Board approve the creation of a farmer's market in the area of Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North provided that Ms. Owens adheres to the regulations of the Parks' Dept.

Shower Area at Risse Street Park: A request for a shower area at Risse St. was made at the April Board meeting. Since the newly renovated park was created for passive recreation, the committee suggested renovating the southern end of the park as a shower area for neighborhood youngsters. Leon Fendley promised to give the Board an estimate of the cost of this project.

Motion #2: The Parks' Committee recommends that the creation of a shower area at the southern end of Risse Street be part of the 2010 capital requests of the Board.

The committee discussed the request for additional benches at the new park on Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Road. Currently the area has more than a few benches. A 3' high stone wall surrounds the open play area and can be used for sitting.

Arnyce Foster was asked about the current unplanned construction at Frisch Field. She reported that the brick wall over the bleachers was caving in and it had to be replaced. A 3' high stone wall will replace the current wall. Chain link fencing will be placed above the wall. The work will take 2 months to complete.

Ms. Foster was thanked for all her help with our many park issues. She was complimented on the maintenance and beautification of Mosholu Parkway.

The meeting ended at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stronczer