



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

- I) **Attendance:** See sign-in sheet.
- II) **Correspondence:**
 - A) A letter from Anthony Riveccio was read. Mr. Riveccio asked that any plans for Mosholu Parkway also include the service roads along the Parkway.
 - B) A letter from Councilperson Oliver Koppell to Commissioner Aponte and Deputy Inspector Alles was discussed. Mr. Koppell asked for their help in continuing to reduce illegal barbecuing on Mosholu Parkway. He plans to set up a meeting regarding this situation.
 - C) A letter from the Traffic and Transportation Committee and the Parks' Committee to our elected officials requesting a spotlight on the World War I Monument at Mosholu Parkway was reviewed.
- III) **FBIA Plans for Mosholu Parkway:** Dart Westphal, from the Mosholu Preservation Corp. presented the plans for Mosholu Parkway which the Four Bronx Institutions have developed. The total package would cost about \$40 million. Currently, funding is only available for the preliminary design work of the roadway changes along Mosholu Parkway. Dart encouraged the Parks' Committee to work with the FBIA to obtain funding for the park areas along the Parkway. The drawings presented showed the addition of a lane going west from Sedgwick to Gun Hill Road. The elimination of an eastbound lane between Van Cortlandt Ave. and Hull Avenue is also part of the plan.
- IV) **Trees:** Shirley Echevarria, the district manager of the parks in CB#7, was asked to obtain a list of trees planted during the fall of '08 and the sites for spring '09 planting. She promised to send this information to Mr. Tirado. She was also reminded about the need to post "No Barbecuing" signs along Mosholu Parkway and in Devoe Park. A request for trees along the islands of the Grand Concourse was also made.
- V) **Frisch Field:** A request for the installation of permanent fencing behind the bleachers at Frisch Field was made. Ms. Echevarria also announced that the PEP Squad would be moving from the Webster Ave. Comfort Station and Parks' maintenance would be taking over the building. She promised to try to find personnel to keep the comfort station open for the many leagues which use Frisch Field on the weekend.
- VI) **Summer Maintenance:** Staffing for the summer months has not as yet been decided. A report will be made at the next Parks' Committee meeting.
- VII) **Illegal Activity in the Parks:** Mr. Tirado suggested that flash cam cameras be installed in some of our parks. They have been successful in many of the parks in other boroughs. Since graffiti has already marred the new track and benches at Williamsbridge Oval and St. James Park still has problems with illegal activities, these two parks would be an excellent location for cameras.
 - A) **Motion: The Parks' Committee recommends that a letter be sent to our elected officials requesting funding for the installation of cameras at both St. James Park and at the Williamsbridge Oval.**
- VIII) **Whalen Park:** Complaints regarding the condition of Whalen Park were addressed. The Mosholu Library is interested in outdoor events at this location if the park can be maintained and kept safe. Ms. Echevarria is interested in working with the Library to reclaim this park.
- IX) **Play Streets:** Additional sites for play streets are available. Adult supervision however, is needed at these locations. Paul Ave. behind Tracey Towers was suggested. Committee members will inquire if the after-school program at Tracey Towers would be interested in the site.
- X) The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.