



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, October 8, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

- I) Attendance: See sign-in sheet.
- II) Sachkerah Playground: Margot Perron, the Administrator of Van Cortlandt Park reported on problems at Sachkerah Playground.
 - A) The PEP Squad was called upon to address the issue of drinking along Jerome Avenue adjacent to the Park.
 - B) Ms. Perron discussed the summer problems caused by illegal barbecuing at the site. She urged everyone to barbecue at the newly refurbished Shandler Field. New grills and picnic tables have been installed in this area.
- III) Community Events on Mosholu Parkway: The movie on Mosholu Parkway was a big success. The event will hopefully be repeated next year with perhaps the addition of a musical group.
- IV) Projects:
 - A) Regatta Park: Plans are being developed to improve the Harlem River Waterway. The Parks' Dept. is trying to obtain property from Con Edison.
 - i. Volunteers were sought from the Parks' Committee to attend future meetings on this project.
 - ii. Helene Hartman and Margaret Mack volunteered to represent the Committee when possible at these meetings.
 - B) Williamsbridge Oval: Friends of the Oval sent a letter to the Parks, and Traffic and Transportation Committees requesting that improvements be made to the Holt Place entrance to the Park. Jay Shuffield expressed the group's concern regarding pedestrian safety at this entrance.
 - i. Since DOT has already done a traffic study, it was suggested that the Friends detail the exact improvements they feel are necessary for this entrance. This issue will be addressed at a future meeting.
 - C) Stone/Snuff Mill Landscaping Project: Carrie Laney from the New York Botanical Garden discussed the proposed rehab of the area surrounding the mill.
 - i. The work will consist of the reconstruction of the terraces, replacement of the pavers with bluestone, repaving of the access path, reduction of the turn in the existing driveway, and the planting of beds with native ground covers.
 - ii. When completed, both terraces will be open to the public. The project is slated to be completed during the fall of 2010.



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- iii. Motion: The Parks' Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed landscaping project at the Stone Mill and send a letter to the Department of Design stating our approval.
- V) Carrie Laney reported on the upcoming events at the Garden. She distributed pamphlets promoting these events.
- VI) Parks' Maintenance: Shirley Echevarria, the Parks' Manager reported on maintenance problems over the summer.
 - A) She pointed out that last summer the Dept. had 60 workers in our area. This summer her staff was cut to 30 workers.
 - B) Problems with over-grown shrubs and unsafe trees were discussed.
 - C) DOT's failure to reseed the area around the Mosholu Station on Jerome Ave. was reported. Ms. Echevarria promised to follow-up on the areas discussed.
- VII) Other: Jen Beaugrand, a consultant with the Mosholu Preservation Corporation, described her work in the parks of our district during the summer months. She is planning other projects for the fall and will be working with approximately 200 youngsters on It's My Park Day on Oct. 24th.
- VIII) The meeting ended at 8:00PM.