



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS' & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, January 25th, 2010 @ 6:30 PM

- I. **Attendance:** See sign-in sheet.
- II. **New Trees:** Mr. William Schmidt from the Forestry Division of the Dept. of Parks discussed the "Million Tree Program." Our Board will be receiving 163 new trees this spring. He also discussed a new program for private home owners who have sidewalk damage due to over-grown tree roots. Michael Lau, from the Forestry Dept. informed the Committee of programs available to provide residents with the information to care for a tree.
- III. **Update on Construction Projects:** Ray Acosta, the Parks' Manager gave the following updates:
 - A. Dog Run at Williamsbridge Oval- Work should begin during the spring of 2011.
 - B. Aqueduct Lands- New plans are still being prepared.
 - C. Scoping for Regatta Park- A proposal to outline the cost of the project will be done. The funding for the project, however, is not available at this time.
 - D. Plans for the Spotlight at the WWI Monument on Mosholu Parkway. Plans are being prepared.
- IV. **"Poo Free Parks":** Mr. Juan Pantoja presented his program which originated in Denver.
 - A. Containers for bags which can be used by local residents to pick up after their dogs would be placed in parks and maintained by sponsors whom his organization would obtain. He is trying to get his program adopted in New York City.
 - B. **Motion 1:** The committee recommends that a letter be sent to Commissioner Aponte requesting that the "Poo Free Parks" program be adopted as a pilot project in Community Board #7.
- V. **Snow/Ice Removal:** Some problems with the clearing of snow at the Mosholu Station of the #4 train were discussed. The cleaning of the stairs at Devoe Park was also requested. Mr. Acosta was thanked for the good work done by his staff in clearing the snow throughout the parks in our area.
- VI. **Recreation Programs in District 7:** Chris Suarez who works in the recreation program at St. James Park reported on the Winter Festival and the many programs which are held for youngsters at St. James Park. Once the recreational center is completed at Williamsbridge Oval this spring, programs will resume at the Oval.
- VII. **Proposed Health Fair:** William Francis reported on plans to work with the Health and Youth Committees to schedule a Health Fair in June at St. James Park.
- VIII. **Horticulture Program:** It was reported that the Horticultural Program which was sponsored by the Mosholu Preservation Corporation has been cut. The elimination of this program is a big loss to the parks in



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CB#7. A tremendous amount of gardening was done by the staff of this program. Possible ways to seek funding to restore the program were discussed.

- IX. **Proposed Ice Rink at Van Cortlandt Park:** Questions were raised concerning the proposed plan for ice skating at this site. More details on the project are being sought.
- X. **Next Meeting Date:** The next Parks' Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd. As of March, the committee will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.