



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



PARKS' & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 25th, 2010 @ 6:30 PM

- I. Attendance: See sign-in sheet.
- II. Follow-up Items:
 - A. Harris Field: The contractor named to remove the toxic waste is the Agostino Contracting Firm. No time line has been set for the completion of the work.
 1. Complaints have been growing regarding the lack of signage and proper fencing at the site. Since the Parks' Dept. claims that it is the responsibility of the contractor to fence the site and post signage, the committee decided to send a letter to our elected officials, the Commissioner of Parks, and Frank McCue, the Parks' Program Manager requesting their help in getting the site properly secured.
 2. It was also suggested that a press release be used to get the situation remedied.
 3. Motion #1: A letter be sent to the Parks' Commissioner, Frank McCue, Program Manager, and our elected officials requesting their help in getting the contractor to secure Harris Field and to post signs on all sides of the field warning the public of the existence of toxic wastes on the field.
 - B. Devoe Park: The Parks' Department is working on providing a temporary shed for equipment to be stored at the park during the renovations of the comfort station. Sister Margaret from the Tolentine Zeiser Center at 2335 University Ave. has offered to provide assistance to the park workers stationed at Devoe during the spring and summer months.
 - C. Williamsbridge Oval: The plans for the dog run were presented to the Friends of the Oval. The Parks' Committee requested a copy of the proposed plans. A meeting will be held on April 1st to discuss whether to close the recreation building during the construction work on the roof.
 - D. Reseeding of the Staging Area at the Mosholu #4 Subway Station: Jackie Carter from DOT informed Parks' that her agency would follow-up with the contractor to get the area reseeded.
 - E. Regatta Park Funding: Shirley Echevarria, the Parks' District Manager announced that money from the filtration plant would not be used for the Harlem River Waterfront. Funding would be obtained from a Federal Transportation Grant.
 - F. Sitting Area at Mosholu Parkway South & Marion Avenue: Jen Beaugrand and her crew of workers would help to re-install the "Cut the Crap" container at this site.
 - G. Removal of the tree Stumps at the Tracey Towers Bus Stop: The Parks' Dept. claims that a special contractor removes tree stumps. The Parks' Dept. is only responsible for the actual cutting of the trees. The committee requests the sending of a letter to Commissioners Benepe, Aponte and Moran to request that action be taken on this issue.
 1. Motion #2: A letter to be sent to Commissioners Benepe, Aponte, and Moran requesting that action on removing the tree stumps at the Tracey Towers bus stop and that a bus shelter be installed.
 2. The residents of Tracey Towers have been waiting for close to 5 years to get a bus shelter installed at this site.
 - H. Cynthia O'Neal Reilly complained about the excessive pruning of the "Green Street" in front of Tracey Towers this past weekend. Not only were the shrubs removed but many of the plants were also uprooted. The triangle was left in a barren state. The committee requests the sending of a letter to the nursery manager requesting the replacement of the destroyed plants.



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1. Motion #3: A letter be sent to Gal Lavid, the Nursery Manager requesting the planting of shrubs and green cover at the green street triangle in front of Tracey Towers where park employees mistakenly destroyed the greenery.
 - I. Pruning of Trees on Davidson Ave: An additional request was made to the Parks' Dept concerning the need to have these trees pruned this spring. The darkened situation has resulted in an increase of crime in this area.
 - J. Clearing of the Downed Trees on Mosholu Parkway: A request for clean-up after the recent storm was made. The Parks' Manager announced that her work crew consisted of 12 people who were responsible for 14 parks in CB #7. Playgrounds were her first priority and she would try to get things back in order as soon as possible.
- III. Concession for the Sale of Christmas Trees: Four sites in CB #7 have been designated for future sales. They are Aqueduct Walk, Devoe Park, Poe Park, and Bryan Park. The committee did not have a problem with these locations.
- IV. Event at Williamsbridge Oval: Quasie Akyeampong represented the NWBCCC and Casa to discuss an event which these groups are proposing for the Oval. The event would take place in July and consist of tables describing community activities, entertainment, and refreshments. Mr. Akyeampong was advised by the Parks' Manager to apply for a permit as soon as possible.
- V. Condition of the Ball Fields: Work still needs to be done on the area ball fields. The Allerton and Frisch fields have not seen any prep work. Shandler is still not complete and locating the source of past flooding remains to be done.
- VI. Committee Meeting with the Police and Parks' Departments: Plans for the Parks' Committee and the Public Safety/Quality of Life Committee to meet with Parks' and the Police Departments regarding illegal barbecuing on Mosholu Parkway and Devoe Park were discussed.
- VII. Ms Echevarria promised to post signs at Devoe and on Mosholu Parkway prior to Memorial Day. The gambling problem at Devoe will also be addressed. The next Parks' meeting will be a joint committee meeting.
- VIII. Jen Beaugrand from the Mosholu Preservation Corp. described her plans for work in the parks this spring and summer. She is currently working in the Gully and will have a crew stationed at Williamsbridge Oval.
- IX. Shirley Echevarria reported on the lack of a full maintenance crew due to retirements and budget cut-backs. The youth worker program was also being reduced this summer.
- X. The meeting ended at 8:35 PM.
- XI. Addendum: After the meeting ended a letter from New Yorkers for Parks was presented. The letter requested Community Board #7 to sign-on to a letter from this agency which is being sent to all state senators and assembly members. This letter requests sufficient aid to the city and state to avoid cuts in park staff and services.
 - A. Parks committee members present at this meeting were e-mailed to seek their approval to sign-on to this letter.
 - B. Motion #4: The Parks' Committee recommends that Community Board #7 sign-on to the letter from New Yorkers for Parks requesting additional funding for the staffing of New York State and City Parks.