



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

- I. Putnam Trail: Catherine O'Brien announced a nature walk at Van Cortlandt Park on Sunday, Sept. 28th at 10:00 A.M. The group is meeting at the Nature Center. Karen Argenti presented the latest information on the Putnam Trail. Plans have been placed on hold. There are several environmental problems. There is a lack of a storm water pollution plan for trail drainage. There is also a major concern for the 50 acres of wetlands. Ms. Argenti pointed out that only CB#8 was given the opportunity to view the original plans. The area is a joint interest project of CB #7,8, and 12.
- II. Bench Removal: Valerie Davis O'Neal represented the Parks' Dept. along with Ray Combest from the Recreation Center at the Oval. There were more than a few complaints regarding the large number of benches which were completely destroyed by the Parks' Dept. on Mosholu Pkwy. Although there were benches in need of repair, CB#7 received no communication from the department regarding the extent of this project. Ms. Davis was unable to supply any information regarding why this occurred and when any benches would be replaced. She promised to get back to CB#7 with this information
 - A. **MOTION #1:** The Parks' Committee recommends that a letter be sent to Larry Scoones, the Chief of Operations to ascertain who was responsible for the destruction of so many benches on Mosholu Parkway. The letter will include a request for a timetable for the replacement of these benches and an immediate halt to any future destruction of the remaining benches.
- III. Budget Requests: Committee members were reminded of the many items in our 2016 budget which are related to Parks. They were urged to complete their priority forms.
- IV. Update on Construction Projects:
 - A. Two stone pillars on the eastbound lanes of Mosholu Parkway- Ms. Davis promised to get back to us with this information.
 - B. Whalen Park – Summer of 2015
 - C. Conversion of the tennis courts at St. James Park – Spring 2015
- V. Shrubs in Need of cutting at Tracey Towers, Risse St. Park and at the Knox Gate Playground were discussed. Ms. Davis announced that they would be cut by the end of this week.
- VI. Fall Staffing and Garbage Pick-up: The Webster Ave. Comfort Station would remain open to house staff and garbage would be picked up daily throughout the area.
- VII. Friends of Mosholu Parkland: Elizabeth Quaranta described her group's summer activities and discussed the need for a master plan for Mosholu Parkway.



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- VIII. New Trees: CB7's tree list for fall 2014 planting was circulated. Requests for replacement trees in Williamsbridge Oval and Mosholu Parkway were given to Ms. Davis. She promised to find out when these trees would be replaced.
- IX. "It's My Park Day:" the Bedford Mosholu Community Association is sponsoring a Park Clean-up on Sat. Oct. 18th from 10:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M. Volunteers should meet at the Webster Avenue Comfort Station for equipment.
- X. Oliver Place and Decatur Ave.: The area in question between Marion and Decatur Avenues has been an eye sore for many years. Dumping, drugs and hanging out characterize this hilly section. The area is City owned and under the jurisdiction of DOT. The Parks' Dept. is not interested in taking over this area. Suggestions for this 60ft. wide strip include a passive sitting area or a green thumb garden
- A. **MOTION #2:** The Parks' Committee recommends that a letter be sent to Commissioner Moran inquiring if DOT would be agreeable to leasing the land to a community group or a not-for-profit for the purpose of creating a community garden
1. Two complaints were received from community residents. They are:
 - a. A broken pipe needs to be removed from the grass along the westbound lanes of Mosholu Parkway between Bainbridge Ave. and East Van Cortlandt Ave. The pipe is located in the grass between the service road and the westbound lanes
 - b. A large bolder is on the sidewalk just north of the Webster House. It needs to be removed but not thrown into the community garden
 - c. Residents from the north side of Mosholu Parkway made a request for a receptacle to hold bags for cleaning-up after your dog
- XI. The meeting ended at 7:40 P.M.