



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 7:15 PM**

- I. Attendance sheet in file
- II. Everyone was thanked for his/her participation in the tree lighting ceremony. Residents were asked for suggestions for next year. These included:
  - A. More trash cans for litter
  - B. Portable decorations for the stage
  - C. Menorah lighting at the same time
- III. "Parks Without Borders"
  - A. A plan to make parks more welcoming to the community was discussed. Commissioner Silver would like to see entrances enhanced with flowers and shrubs rather than fences. Residents were asked to suggest a park for this concept. Discussion pursued regarding the proposed project at Whalen Park. Community residents had previously asked for fencing since the park is located at the end of the D line and attracts numerous homeless individuals
- IV. Lights at Harris Field:
  - A. Walkway lights around Harris Field are still not operating. Since no one from Parks' attended the meeting, the complaint will be sent to the Park Manager
- V. Lifeguards Wanted:
  - A. A notice of training for lifeguard positions for summer employment with Parks' was announced. It was suggested to share the notice with the Youth Committee
- VI. Putnam Trail:
  - A. The controversy regarding the paving or retention of a soft surface for the trail in the Bronx part of Van Cortlandt Park was discussed. Mr. David Gellman of CB#8 described the reasons why the trail should be paved. Cyclists, and the handicapped would benefit most if the trail was paved. A chart sent by Catherine O'Brien who favors the retention of a permeable surface was distributed. The chart demonstrated the number of walkers, joggers, and bike riders during a six-week period in July 2015. The third set of plans for the trail will be presented at CB#8 this month. The Parks' Dept. will present the plans to our committee at our next meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>
- VII. PS 8 Playground:
  - A. Elizabeth Quaranta from the Friends of Mosholu Parkway presented a proposal to create a mural along the Bainbridge Ave, wall surrounding the playground. Ms. Quaranta is applying for a grant from the Citizens Committee of New York. If awarded the money, the mural would depict a nature scene along the Bainbridge side of the playground and the entrance area at this location. The plan and mural content must be approved by the Parks' Dept., since the area is under their jurisdiction. Ms. Quaranta requested a letter of support from our committee
- VIII. MOTION:
  - A. The Parks' Committee recommends that a letter of support for the creation of a mural on the Bainbridge Avenue wall around the PS 8 playground be sent to the Parks' Dept.



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- IX. St. James Park:
- A. A suggestion to keep St. James Park open later on the weekends during the summer for basketball was presented. The idea will be put on next month's agenda. A request for better lighting and the locking of the gates after dark at Williamsbridge Oval was also discussed. The park has witnessed vandalism and fires during the past few weeks. This item will also be discussed with Parks' at our next meeting
- X. The meeting ended at 8:15PM. The next Parks' meeting is scheduled for February 10th.