



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 @ 7:30PM

### **MEETING AGENDA**

- I) Committee Attendance: Nora Feury, Chad Royer, Barbara Stronczer  
Absent: Gloria Dapaah, Gwendolyn Thomas-Steed  
Excused: Betty Arce  
Guests: See attendance sheet.
  
- II) Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Nora Feury was designated as the Vice Chair of the committee.
  
- III) Presentations
  - A) The first presentation was made by Jamie Ong from the NYC Parks Department.
    - 1) \$250,000 has been appropriated for preliminary drawings for improvements to the Tibbetts Brook Wetlands in Van Cortlandt Park.
      - (a) The project will address flooding and manage invasive vegetation.
      - (b) Currently the overflow runs into the sewer system connected to Broadway.
      - (c) The long-range plan is to direct the overflow to the Harlem River.
      - (d) Ms. Ong invited the committee to a more formal presentation on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at Manhattan College (6:30 PM).
  - B) Bharat Parekh, from the Dept. of Design and Construction
    - 1) Presented preliminary plans for the construction of a pedestrian ramp crossing the Major Deegan Expressway.
      - (a) The purpose of the ramp is to connect the east and western sides of the park.
      - (b) 92 trees will be impacted by the project since ramps leading to the bridge will also be constructed.
      - (c) The bridge and ramp will be located just north of the baseball field at the Shandler Recreation area.
      - (d) The project will cost approximately \$20 million and should be completed by 12/21.
    - 2) After questions and discussion the presenters requested a letter of support from the board.



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- (a) Objections included the loss of trees, the upsetting of animal Habitats, and the design and appearance of the bridge.
  - (b) The structure is very modern and does not seem to fit with the rustic nature of the park.
  - (c) The project will be brought to the executive committee for review.
- IV) Daniel Reynolds, the Regional Manager for the Parks' Dept. was introduced.
- A) He promised to work with the board regarding service requests.
  - B) Complaints regarding the condition of the pillars along Mosholu Parkway were made.
    - 1) Two years ago money had been appropriated from the Mayor's budget for repair of the pillars.
      - (a) To date no work has been done.
  - C) The lack of a gardener for Williamsbridge Oval and Mosholu Parkway was discussed.
    - 1) The gardener at the Oval retired 2 years ago and was never replaced.
  - D) Mr. Reynolds was asked to look into why Devoe Park was placed into District 5.
    - 1) The park is part of our board and should be managed by District 7.
      - (a) Problems cannot be handled at our committee meetings if the District 5 manager is not in attendance.
- V) Everyone was reminded about the upcoming Bronx Parks' Speak-Out on Sat. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at Lehman College.
- VI) Sarah Bishow, the manager of the Recreational Center at Williamsbridge Oval, announced the Spring Egg Hunt planned for Sat. March 31<sup>st</sup> from 11:00-2:00PM.
- VII) The next meeting is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>.