



Chairman Mohammed Mujumder – District Manager: William Rivera

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Summary

March 12, 2025

Committee Members Present: David Marin, Lena Johnson

Committee Description: The Parks and Recreation Committee represents the community's interests with regard to parks, park services and all park related matters and acts as a liaison between parks users and the New York City Parks Department.

I. Speakers

A. O'Neil Spencer and Kristine Rivera, Excellence Community Schools

- Mr. O'Neil shared that Excellence Community Schools is a K-8 charter school. Their goal is to help students get into top high schools and prepare them with social, emotional, and ethical skills. They have had success in their athletic programs winning over 15 championships. They are continuing to expand and grow their schools. However, one of their challenges has been the limited space they have for sport's practice. They rely on public parks for their students, and as of now, they have not had success acquiring permits. They hope to use a field in Parkchester and would like to have the support of Community Board 9.
- BM Johnson shared that there have been noise complaints in the past with sports teams staying after their allocated time in the park. Mr. O'Neil and Ms. Rivera assures that will not be the case here because their students are younger, and their use of the parks will only be during the day.
- All of their coaches have First Aid and CPR training, and they are considering expanding the athletic programs into the summer.

B. Ashlyn Teather, Partnerships for Parks

- Ms. Teather shared the Partnerships for Parks mission, which is to support and champion neighborhood parks. PFP leads IMPs, which facilitates an organization hosting a service project in a community park. They hope to have more corporate groups come to the Bronx for IMPs. PFP also hosts online workshops and grant programs. They are currently looking for volunteers for their park cleanup.
- On March 26th (10am-3pm) there will be a Parks Job Fair at St. James Recreation Center.

C. Gaia Rueda Moreno, Bronx is Blooming

- Ms. Rueda Moreno shared that Bronx is Blooming has been leading volunteer programs focused on tree care and park restoration. Additionally, they have been also leading workshops to teach residents more about the parks, and there will be a tree giveaway soon. Soundview Park is the currently only park in the district where they have recurring programs.
- Some of their other programming includes bird watching walks, caring for street trees, summer and fall festivals, college fairs, and more. For more information visit: www.bronxisblooming.org.

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