



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin, **Chair** / Joseph Marziliano, **District Manager**

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Paul DiBenedetto, Parks Committee Chair
DATE: April 1, 2021

On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, the CB11 Parks Committee held a Zoom teleconference meeting to discuss proposed improvements to Dermody Triangle.

Present

Paul DiBenedetto, Committee Chair
Christine Haider, 1st Vice Chair
Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair
Laura James
Eileen Miller
Albert Galatan

Mary Donahue
Lourdes December
Akshar Patel
Christina Scherer
Michael Golia

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator
Christina Coutinho, Community Associate

Guests

Diane Dreier, NYC DPR
Eric Mattes, NYC DPR

Justin Opalka, NYC DPR
Jack Bai, NYC DPR

Mr. DiBenedetto called the meeting to order.

Mr. Marziliano introduced the topic for the meeting which was the proposed reconstruction of Dermody Triangle in Bayside Hills. Justin Opalka, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) screen-shared a power point presentation of the proposal which included a history of the site. A schematic design was also shown. Mr. Opalka stated that the plaque will be reinstalled on the monument. The retaining wall and stairs on 216 Street and on 48 Avenue need to be redone. A tree at the northeast corner of 216 Street and 48 Avenue needs to be removed. DPR met with NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) regarding the safest access point for a crosswalk. It was recommended that they construct a “bump out” at the northeast side of the corner at 216 Street and 48 Avenue for the crosswalk. There will also be stop signs at this corner. There will be another ADA compliant entrance at the northwest corner. They will all be ramped. Stairs will be built at the southeast corner. There will be hex block pavers on each path. The monument will be the central focal point and there will be 1939 World’s Fair-style benches. The entire

perimeter retaining wall along 48 Avenue and the easterly side of 216 Street will be reconstructed with fieldstone and brought up to code. They will be installing a bronze plaque. Decorative trash bins for recycling and regular trash will also be provided. They will be seeding the lawn and will also plant American Sycamore, Sugar Maple, Colonial Gold trees. Monroe's White will be planted around the monument.

Mr. DiBenedetto asked if they can reuse the original stone. Mr. Opalka said they can reuse existing stone if it is in good shape; otherwise, they will use stone that replicates the original. Mr. DiBenedetto asked if they would consider using another type of material for the plaque as bronze is often stolen. Ms. Dreier said they can speak to their monument department about this. Mr. DiBenedetto asked about the pavers. Mr. Opalka said the hex block pavers are the closest to the historical ones. Mrs. Miller inquired as to the construction timeline. Mr. Opalka said the project is in the design phase. They are hoping it is finalized by the summer. It requires Public Design Commission approval. Hopefully, they will be breaking ground by the Spring of 2022; it will then take approximately 9 – 12 months to complete.

Bayside Hill resident, Ron Keil, asked if the curb will be replaced on the westside of 216 Street. Mr. Keil said the curb is in disrepair. Mr. Opalka said they will try to replace it with what exists now; if their budget allows. He will investigate what they can do. Mr. Keil stressed how important this is. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested that perhaps NYC could fund the replacement of the curb. Bayside Hills Civic Association President, Michael Feiner, requested a shovel to the ground date as soon as possible. Mr. Feiner thanked all for getting this project moving.

Mrs. Donahue asked if there are any places where daffodil bulbs could be planted. Mr. Opalka said yes, there are areas to the north behind the benches, the east side on 216 Street and an area on the south. The community can do this after the project is completed. Ms. James inquired about parking around the site; specifically, if the "bump out" would necessitate the removal of the parking spot at that corner. Through consultation with DOT, it was decided that the corner parking spot would be forfeited to enhance safety at this corner. Mr. DiBenedetto asked if there will be signage of any sort. Ms. Dreier stated that the Borough Office will address signage to be installed. Mr. Euler asked if the plants are native species. The Sycamore and Sugar Maple are. The Colonial Gold is for winter interest. This evergreen species can grow to about 20' to 30'. Mrs. Haider asked about the pavers. Mr. Opalka stated they will be mortared in place. Mr. Golia inquired if there is a designated area the community could plant bulbs in; otherwise, they can get cut down when DPR Maintenance mows the area. Mr. Opalka stated the community can plant as they see fit. Ms. Dreier commented that the Capital division will do their work. Inquiries about design can be made later with the Queens Borough office of DPR and the Partnership for Parks who can assist with planting beds. Mr. Patel thanked DPR and CB11 for their efforts to get this done. He requested that this be done at the quickest possible pace. Mrs. Miller requested that a copy of the proposal be sent to the Community Board. Mr. DiBenedetto thanked DPR representatives for the presentation.

Mrs. Haider made a motion approve the plans as presented by DPR for Dermody Triangle. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DiBenedetto added that the Bayside Historical Society has been contacted by the Dermody family. They want to take part in any event that takes place and have some items they may donate as well.

Before the DPR representatives left the meeting, the issue of the construction on the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway was raised. Mr. Mattes, Team Leader, DPR Queens Capital Group, stated that construction began and should be completed by September 2021. Mr. Galatan remarked that it looks like nothing has been done. Mr. Mattes stated that fencing was installed, and the removal of steel guardrails and pavement have started. They will be repaving the path and installing wooden guardrails. It will go very quickly once the actual work begins. It is primarily a repaving project. Mr. Marziliano added that the work needs to be done in phases due to the weight-bearing ability of the bridges on the path. Ms. Dreier added that there is one bridge they cannot cross. She also said that they are performing work on trees and brush removal. Mr. Galatan stated some of the fencing has been vandalized. Mrs. Dreier said they will discuss this with the construction team and secure whatever is needed. The project is expected to be completed on time.

Mr. DiBenedetto gave an update regarding a farmer's market for the district. He contacted two North Shore Farms stores; it is too late to get them up and running for this year. He will continue to work on it for next year. Queens County Farm Museum has already established two new stands in Queens this year. He is still trying to get something for the area as the season runs through late Fall. He asked all members to reach out, and refer to him, any local farm they may be aware of within 50-75 miles about establishing an organic or all-natural market in CB11.

He also mentioned that there will be dance fitness classes on Mondays in Alley Pond Park starting April 5, 2021.

Ms. December announced a clean-up of Alley Pond Park that is scheduled for April 24, 2021 at 9 a.m. If interested, you can register on their website: friendsofalleypondpark.org.

Mr. Galatan inquired about composting programs in the District. Ms. Scherer said the Queens Farm has a program. Mrs. Miller said there is also one in Cunningham Park. Ms. Scherer said you can only bring leaves, plants etc. No meat, fat or bones. Mr. Galatan requested that CB11 let the community know about these sites. Mr. Marziliano will verify before publicizing.

Respectfully submitted 4/1/2021