



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Wednesday, March 14th, 2018, 6:30pm  
**Hon. Karen Horry, Chair**  
**Hon. Leever Holmes Vice Chair**

Meeting began at 6:30 pm and was held in the 4th Floor Conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

**Committee Members in attendance:** Chair Karen Horry, and Crystal Shipp  
**Committee Members Absent:** Troy Gethers, Henrietta Lyle, Leever Holmes, Mark Bones, and Maurice Sessoms  
**Committee Members Excused:** Derrick Graham,

**Guests in attendance:** Christie Jean (Salem-HCZ), Stephon Odom (Salem-HCZ), Tenae Roberts (Salem-HCZ), Justin Ramsammy (Salem-HCZ), Justin Paige (Salem-HCZ), Natasha Santana (Salem-HCZ), Alpha Barry (Salem-HCZ) Carrie Randall (Salem-HCZ), Zoe McCullough, Alejandro Tejeda (CCNY), Iris Gumbs (Community Resident), Florence Middleton (Board 10 Senior Task Force), Segbemba Murray (Salem Community Center- HCZ), C. Jones (Seneca Village), Nan Rothschild (Seneca Village), Marie Warsh (Central Park Conservancy) Meredith Linn (Seneca Village), Diana Wall (Seneca Village - CCNY), Linda English, Judynel Johnson, Paul Johnson, Regina Anderson, Isabelle Surpris, Sylvester Jabbie, Sharon Wilkins (Institute for Exploration of Seneca Village History, Inc.), Barbara Williams, Cynthia Copeland (Seneca Village Project), Dr. Leonard Jeffries (Drs. Jeffries Foundation).

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Seneca Village**

The Seneca Village Project is dedicated to the study of a 19th-century African-American and Irish-immigrant community that was located in the current Central Park in New York City.

The goal of the Seneca Village Project is to conduct further research on the site and to commemorate it in an educational context. The Seneca Village Project includes several integrated components: archaeological and archival research and education. Seneca Village existed from 1825 through 1857. It was located between 82nd and 89th Streets and Seventh and Eighth Avenues. Today, this area is part of Central Park. Seneca Village was Manhattan's first significant community of African American property owners. By the 1840s, it had become a multi-ethnic community African Americans, Irish, and German immigrants, and perhaps a few Native Americans. In 1855, the New York State Census reported approximately 264 individuals living in the village. There

were three churches, as well as a school and several cemeteries. Within two years, Seneca Village would be razed and its identity erased by the creation of Central Park.

**Outcome:** The Committee will revisit the issue in June to assess the progress of the Central Park Conservancy's evaluation of the proposed commemorative formats as suggested by the community, i.e.; Garden with a technologically interactive component emphasizing the village footprint, history and culture, with a tie-in to the artifacts collected by the Seneca Village project.

The Committee is in favor of issuance of a Resolution in support of a Commemoration of Seneca Village in Central Park to take before the Executive Committee for a vote, since we did not have quorum.

## **II. DISCUSSIONS**

a. CB 10 Recreation Centers Survey- The Committee developed questions to be used to poll local area recreational facilities to ascertain whether CB 10 can support in promoting community usage.

b. Community Outreach - Chess Event will be scheduled for May or June

## **III. Old Business**

a. Updates

- i. Mandela Garden Resolution-resolution was reviewed and forwarded to the Executive Committee - the site is being considered for a ULURP by the Land Use Committee
- ii. Central Park Reconstruction Projects - community Boards 11, 5, 7, 9 and 8 were contacted. Boards are supporting the projects with either full Board resolutions or letters of support. CB 10 Resolution on the project will reflect that the Playground projects incorporate play equipment with features that engage mobility and/ or sensory-challenged children.
- iii. African Burial Ground Letter - HABGTF advised that the site has received official designation as an historic site and that government guidelines will be adhered to in order to ensure that gravesite remains will be respectfully removed before any construction begins.

The Committee **did not have quorum**, six of the eight standing members were not in attendance, no items were voted on. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.**

*~Respectfully submitted by Parks and Recreation Chair, Karen Horry~*