



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Wednesday, December 13th, 2017, 6:30pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair
Hon. Leever Holmes Vice-Chair

Meeting began at 7:00 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, Derrick Graham and Leever Holmes
Committee Members Absent: Kevin Bitterman, Mark Bones, Troy Gethers, LaShanda Myers and Henrietta Lyle, Crystal Shipp (excused), Maurice Sessoms (excused)

Guests in attendance: Dara Harris

DISCUSSIONS

A. Seneca Village

The Committee was asked to explore the official commemoration of Seneca Village as a result of a visit from Dr. Leonard Jeffries at the May 2017 Committee meeting. The Seneca Village Project was contacted and is arranging for a presentation at the February Committee meeting.

Seneca Village existed from 1825 through 1857. It was located between 82nd and 89th Streets and ran from Seventh Avenue to Eighth Avenue. 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. Seneca Village was razed in 1857 and its identity erased by the creation of what is today Central Park.

The Committee agreed that any commemorative project should include components integrating archaeological and archival research and interactive education, particularly for local area school students.

Outcome: The Committee is drafting a resolution to recommend a venue to commemorate the people, history and legacy of Seneca Village in Central Park. This sentiment will be conveyed to the Executive Committee.

B. Renaming of St. Nicholas Playground North To Byrd's Classic Park - Letter of Support

In April 1970, William Byrd supported by the 131st Street Block Association, submitted Harlem Community signatures which were contributory to six million signatures presented to Brooklyn Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and Detroit Congressman John Conyers. Chisholm and Conyers subsequently introduced a bill in Congress, which was finally passed in 1983. On November 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the law making January 15th a national holiday in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Since 1986, the holiday has been observed on the third Monday in January.

C. African American Burial Ground (126th Street Bus Depot) Mixed-Use Memorial Project – CB 10 Position Statement

The Committee and Community discussed the content of CB 11's statement letter regarding the Harlem African Burial Ground located on the site of the 126th Street Bus Depot.

The Committee reviewed a drafted letter in support of the project as outlined by CB11 and determined that the emphasis should be on the following points:

1. Ensuring the project honors and commemorates the sacred and significant social, economic and cultural history of the Harlem African Burial Ground, and
2. Ensuring that the developer has a contingency plan if additional remains are found.

These points were excerpted from CB 11's community Board recommendation of approval as based on the commitment of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, per CB 11's conditions of ULURP Application No's. c 170275 ZMM, 170278 PPM, and 170093 MMM.

Outcome: The Committee will convey sentiment regarding drafted letter to the Executive Committee in view of a lack of quorum.

D. CB 9 Resolution re: Harlem Eat-Up Letter of Support

The Harlem Eatup Event is primarily a paid private event which has been held annually in mid-May for the past three years in Morningside Park.

Outcome: The Committee discussed the proposed resolution drafted by CB 9. The sentiment of the Committee is to issue a letter in support of CB 9's resolution for presentation at the Executive Committee meeting.

E. How can CB 10 Support Recreation Centers in CB 10

The Committee discussed the objective of creating a database of all CB 10 recreation centers so as to provide information to the community to promote increased utilization by residents and to offer any needed support from government agencies, etc. to local area recreation centers.

The Committee **did not have quorum**. Six of the ten standing members were not in attendance. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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