



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 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, Derrick Graham, Henrietta Lyle and Maurice Sessoms

Committee Members Absent: Troy Gethers, Leever Holmes, Mark Bones, and Crystal Shipp

Guests in attendance: Jean P. Rodriguez (NYC Parks), Stephen Hanson (NYC Parks), John Wagner (NYC Parks), Jerry Kirkland (Deacon/Community Relations - New Hope J.D.A. Church), Lane Addonizio (Central Park Conservancy), Danny Cabrera (MBPO), Steve Simon (DPR), Shena Kaufman (DPR), John Reddick (Harlem Pride, Sharon Peterson (HCCI Macombs Manor), Sam Penceal, Jamil Philips (Hansborough/Parks)

Presentations:

A. Harlem Lane Playground Reconstruction

Harlem Lane Playground (Park ID: M141 - 1.64 acres) is located between the Harlem River Drive and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and between West 151st and West 153rd Streets.

The neighborhood playground is named for Harlem Lane, an old road in the area that served as a popular racecourse for horse-drawn carriages in the 19th century. Harlem Lane is the predecessor of Saint Nicholas Avenue, which extends from Central Park and meanders up through northern Manhattan. At 168th Street, the Harlem Lane racecourse met with another horse carriage track that traversed along the Harlem River up to the High Bridge at 174th Street. This offshoot of Harlem Lane became known as the Harlem River Speedway, and as it evolved into a highway, the Harlem River Drive.

The project will reconstruct Harlem Lane Playground, including the comfort station, stairs, sports areas, lighting, plantings, paths, benches, and sidewalks. The project will re-establish the connection between the upper and lower portions of the park and may introduce new features like a walking and bike path.

Meetings were held with Community stakeholders (dates) to determine the scope of work for the project. Parks is now developing the design for the site and will return to

the Committee in May or June, at which time they will request a resolution in support of the project.

The design charrettes began in October 2017. The projected completion date is February 2019. The average time for procurement is 9 months. The procurement timeline for the contract will be established at the conclusion of the design phase.

The average time for construction is 12-18 months. The construction timeline for this specific contract will be established at the conclusion of the procurement phase. The Playground will be closed for construction. The estimated cost of the project will be greater than \$10 million and is a Mayoral Initiative.

Outcome: Parks will return to the Committee after completion of the design phase in May or June, at which time they will request a resolution in support of the project.

B. Central Park Projects

1. Reconstruction of the East 96th Street Playground

East 96th Street Playground is located east of the Reservoir and south of the 96th Street Transverse. The original playground was built in 1936, as part of the system of playground constructed under Parks Commissioner Robert Moses in the marginal landscapes along the Park perimeter. The original playground was oval in shape and included equipment and activities typical of the era, including swings, slides, see saws, kinder (sand) tables, and water spray feature. The edge of the playground was delineated by wood and concrete benches and a low pipe-rail fence. The existing seven-foot tall steel picket fence was installed in the 1940s. The purpose of the project is to meet the design objectives outlined in the Plan for Play by specifically addressing the accessibility of the playground, the relationship between the playground and the Park, and the variety of play experiences for children ages 2-12.

The scope of work includes:

- Modification of the existing footprint to create a wider landscape margin between playground and path, enhancing the connection between the playground and the Park landscape and working around existing mature trees; add a picnic area in the southern end of the playground that is both contained and part of the Park landscape.
- Regrade the playground, which currently slopes and steps down from west to east, leveling the ground plane to the lower elevation to remove barriers and improve the playground's relationship to the Park. In order to lower the west side of the playground, install concrete seat walls (18" high) that retain the grade outside the playground.
- Replace the 7-foot steel picket fence with a 4-foot steel picket fence. Around the picnic area, and behind the concrete retaining/seat walls (where there is sufficient opportunity for planting), install a

lightweight mesh fence screened by the plantings (the same fence as developed for recently reconstructed playgrounds including East 110th, Wild West, East 72nd, and West 84th Street) to ensure that the play environment is contained.

- Regrade the entrance path from East 96th Street and create an ADA-accessible route to the playground, consisting of a ramp set but the landscape and screened by plantings.
- Install an ADA-accessible gate at the playground entrance.
- Reorganize the play spaces to better separate 2-5 and 5-12 age groups and allow for easy circulation between them.
- Construct and enhanced water spray feature at the center of the playground, activated by a user-operated bollard that makes the spray feature interactive and conserves water.
- Relocate sand area to the 2-5 play area; reconstruct to include a sand table for ADA access.
- Move existing swing area for 2-5 year olds that currently includes six bucket swings to the northern end of the playground and replace them with three bucket swings, four strap swings, and one ADA-accessible swing.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of issuance of a Resolution in support of the project to take before the Executive Committee for a vote.

2. Reconstruction of the West 90th Street (Safari Playground)

Safari/West 90th Street Playground is located between Central Park West and the West Drive at a high point overlooking the Reservoir. The playground was originally built in 1936, as part of the system of playgrounds constructed under Parks Commissioner Robert Moses in the marginal landscapes just inside the Park perimeter.

Rebuilt in 1997 as Safari Playground, it is currently the only Park playground that does not contain any traditional play equipment such as slides, swings and sandboxes. Instead, the playground features hippopotamus sculptures set within a river of safety surfacing in a pattern evocative of flowing water.

The purpose of the project is to meet the design objectives outlined in the Plan for Play by addressing the relationship between the playground and the Park, the accessibility of the playground, and opportunities to add play value, while building on the success of the current Safari theme.

The scope of work includes:

- Modification of the existing footprint to create a wider landscape margin between playground and path, enhancing the connection between the playground and

the Park landscape and working around existing mature trees.

- Replacement of the 7-foot steel picket fence with a 4-foot steel picket fence, offset from the edge of the playground.
- Regrade of the entrance path from West 90th Street and create an ADA-accessible route from the Park Drive to the playground within the steep slope; remove existing non-ADA compliant stroller ramp, widen existing stairs and add handrails.
- Installation of an ADA-accessible gate at the playground entrance.
- Building within the playground, upon the successful Safari theme, adding a series of play mounds around the central play space.
- Incorporation of wood climbing elements, platforms, and slides in the largest play mound at the northern end of the playground.
- Construction of an enhanced water spray feature on the southern end (in the location of the existing spray), activated by a user-operated bollard that makes the spray feature interactive and conserves water; deactivation of this area with play canoes, climbable hippo sculptures, and climbing mounds.
- Scanning and recasting of the existing play hippo sculptures.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of issuance of a Resolution in support of the project to take before the Executive Committee for a vote.

3. Restoration of the Comfort Station at Merchant's Gate - Southwest Corner/West 61st Street

Constructed in 1924, the West 61st Street Comfort Station is located just inside Central Park West (CPW) one block north of Merchant's Gate at the southwest corner of the Park. The elevation of the Park landscape in this location is below that of the adjacent perimeter sidewalk and the roof of the stone building - which is built into a slope and abuts the perimeter wall - is a plaza off of CPW. The comfort station was originally flanked by stairs that descended in the Park from CPW. The stairs were removed as part of a 1980 rehabilitation project that also converted the vestibules just inside the exterior doors of the building to an open-air portico through removal of the doors and windows, enlarging the windows to door-size openings, and installation of ornamental steel grilles in the openings.

The scope of work includes:

- Repair of damage to masonry walls caused by water infiltration; repoint masonry; install new waterproofing membrane

- Refurbishment and reinstallation of wrought iron grilles on windows and exterior metal doors and frames.
- Replacement of existing windows in kind with new better performing, insulated windows
- Renovation of interior with new ADA-accessible layout.
- Upgrade of mechanical, plumbing and electrical infrastructure in order to make the restroom an all-weather facility.
- Reconstruction of roof and terrace with new waterproofing membrane and protective coating, as well as new drainage infrastructure; refurbishment and reinstallation of existing ornamental lights; replacement of masonry benches in kind.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of issuance of a Resolution in support of the project to take before the Executive Committee for a vote.

III. Old Business

a. Updates

- i. Harlem EatUp! - CB 9 is in negotiations with Harlem Eat-Up and would like CB 10 to reserve commentary at this time.
- ii. Woman's Suffrage Central Park Monument Resolution - Resolution passed by the full Board at the February 7th General Board Meeting.
- iii. Byrd's Classic Park Update _Letter of Support - Letter was issued.
- iv. Parks Without Borders - Jackie Robinson Park- Project is on time and is currently in the procurement phase.
- v. Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden - the Borough President's office is currently in negotiations with the titular owner to purchase the privately —owned lots.
- vi. Mandela Garden Resolution-resolution was reviewed and forwarded to the Executive Committee for a vote

b. Community Garden General Policy Resolution - reviewed by Committee and forwarded to Executive Committee for a Full vote at the general board meeting

c. African Burial Ground Letter - pending

d. CB 10 Survey - Recreation Centers - pending

e. Chess Community Outreach Event - pending

The Committee **did not have quorum**, four 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 9:15 pm.

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