



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor—New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

SHATIC MITCHELL
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, May 26th, 2020, 6:30 pm
Via Zoom Video Conference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/2Wq4BzZ>

+1 929 205 6099

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Zoom Video Conference began at 6:35 pm. The conference was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee Chair Karen Horry, Tahanie Aboushi, Karen Dixon, Thomas Moore, Barbara Nelson, and Derek Perkinson.

Committee Members Absent: Kevin Bitterman Deborah Gilliard and Eboni Mason

Community Board Staff & Board Members: Juanita Anderson (Community Assistant), Omar Arias, Dana Mondesire, Marcus Wilson, Terri Wisdom and Mari Moss.

Guests in attendance: Ruben Rahman (Harlem Community Development Corporation), Lane Addonizio (Vice President of Planning - Central Park Conservancy), Isaiah Jenkins, Sharrone Salaam, Yusef Salaam (Exonerated Five), Jose Tricia's, Shareef Salaam, Milan, and Malukah Mommin Pinkston and Jose Trucios,

I. COVID-19 Update for Parks

Important Parks Department Service Changes Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Updated: Thursday, May 21 at 12:00 p.m.

The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 disease, known as the coronavirus, a pandemic. During this time, we ask that all park goers use additional precautions to protect their health and safety and that of those around them.

At this time, City parks are **open**. We ask that all park goers take extra precautions to stay healthy and safe. While solo exercise is okay, team sports (such as basketball, football, softball, and soccer) are not permitted in the parks at this time. Please maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside and avoid congregating in groups.

Park restrooms are **open**. NYC Parks is cleaning park restrooms daily with appropriate cleaning products to ensure that they are being fully disinfected. Restrooms located within City playgrounds are closed until further notice.

For more information about coronavirus and a guide on how to stay safe, please visit <http://nyc.gov/coronavirus> , or text COVID to 692-692 to receive regular SMS texts with the latest news and developments from [Notify NYC](#) .

Service Changes and Cancellations

Many events being held in parks by outside groups are being canceled or rescheduled. Before attending, please check with the organizing group to confirm.

Face Coverings

New York City will continue face coverings in parks across the city free of charge through the social distancing period. For more information [visit nyc.gov/facecoverings](http://nyc.gov/facecoverings) .

Facility Closures

- All City [playgrounds](#) are closed until further notice.
- All [NYC Parks Recreation Centers](#) are closed to the public until further notice. We will be extending all memberships to our recreation center members to cover the length of time we are closed.
- [City beaches](#) are closed for swimming until further notice. Walking, running, exercising, and access to the sand and boardwalk are still permitted during regular park hours.
- Barbecuing and gatherings are prohibited and [grilling areas](#) are closed.
- [Basketball](#), [handball](#), and [tennis](#) courts are closed and locked. All basketball court rims and tennis nets have been removed.
- Bocce courts and [volleyball courts](#) are closed.
- [Skate parks](#) are closed.
- [Dog runs](#) are closed until further notice. Our parks remain open to dogs and pet owners to get fresh air and exercise. Our off-leash rules still apply, but please note that [the Center for Disease Control recommends](#) that all dog owners keep their dogs on a leash and maintain at least six feet of distance from other people and animals.
- All City [nature centers](#) are closed until further notice.
- The City's historic houses are closed.
 - Roger Morris Park, Dyckman Farmhouse Park, and Queens Farm Park are closed.
- The Swedish Cottage is closed.
- As a precaution, [the High Line](#) is closed.
- To provide a staging area for first responders, [Fort Totten Park](#) is closed to the public.
- The [Arsenal Gallery](#) is closed until further notice.
- At this time, [most concessions are closed](#), including ice skating rinks, amusement parks and carousels, golf courses, indoor tennis facilities, souvenir shops, and more.
 - Farmers markets and gas stations remain open. Customers must practice social distancing.
 - A few snack bars & restaurants remain open for takeout or delivery. Customers must practice social distancing.
 - For the health and safety of the horses, stables will remain operational, but closed to the general public.

Programming Cancellations

In response to the State and City's directive, all public gatherings in our parks are cancelled through June 30. In the interest of the health and safety of all of our patrons, NYC Parks is not accepting, nor reviewing, event applications for any Special Events or Field and Court Permits until further notice.

- All [Shape Up NYC](#) programs are cancelled until further notice. Please follow [Shape Up NYC](#) on Facebook for news on upcoming free online fitness opportunities.
- [Adventures NYC](#) is cancelled.
- Urban Park Ranger programs are cancelled.
- All tournaments and sports practices are cancelled.
- All special events held in recreation centers have been cancelled.
- [NYC Parks Stewardship](#) events have been postponed until further notice.

Programming Service Changes

- NYC's [tennis season](#) is delayed until further notice. Tennis permit sales have been suspended for the 2020 season. If you have already purchased a tennis permit, it will be valid through 2021.
- [GreenThumb community gardens](#) are closed to the general public until further notice. Gardens are open to garden members only at the discretion of each group, and only for absolutely necessary maintenance and season preparation.
- Marinas, boatyards, and boat launches are open for personal use of vessels only. Vessel charters, rentals, and group activities or social gatherings are prohibited. Patrons must practice social distancing at all times and wear a face covering where social distancing is not possible.

II. Discussions

a. Open Streets and Best Practice Protocols

- i. West 138th Street (between Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevards) - opened May 23rd from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
 1. Concerns about combination of testing site visitors to the Abyssinian Baptist Church and Open Street congregants. There is no signage to encourage social distancing. Cars remain parked.
- ii. West 143rd Street (between Malcolm X and Fifth Avenue) - opened May 23rd from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
 1. Concerns about large groups, placement of social distancing signage. Are any structured activities planned? Will there be free mask distribution?

Outcome: The Committee will forward questions and concerns to the Executive Committee,

b. The Exonerated Five and an Associated Exhibit in Central Park

The discussion was prefaced with acknowledgement (garnered from previous discussions) that the process to establish a permanent exhibit dedicated to the

Exonerated Five is the start of a multi-faceted journey which should include a diverse dialogue and as broad a group of stakeholders as possible. The process should exemplify strong Community engagement around possible themes, social justice concepts and exhibit content. Formation of a public panel with focused group discussion is warranted. Any discussion should prioritize the perspective of the Exonerated Five and their families and what matters to them. The discourse should also include the city-side focus and social-criminal justice aspect. How do we bring the abstract to the concrete in the form of a permanent exhibit. What will be the specific content of the exhibit. How will the exhibit meld with the country-side intent of the park? What will be the driving themes and ideas. How do we get people thinking together to work through the message to be conveyed by the exhibit? What will be the specific central question for a panel discussion. It was also recommended that the exhibit convey the history surrounding the Central Park 5 event and its impact on the CB 10 community while delving into the timeless issues of recurring social injustices. What benefits can be brought to the Community, particularly our youth.

There was further discussion on the development and site location for a criminal justice reform center that would be interactive with the proposed Central Park Exonerated Five exhibit. Moving towards the future - both the exhibit and the Center would be focused around justice and collaborative efforts to bring about positive social reforms as they are related to criminal justice.

The Seneca Village Exhibit, currently in Central Park and suggested as a process model for an Exonerated Five exhibit, is being considered for an extension as a result of the pandemic. The project, which is temporary was designed as a precursor to inform a permanent exhibit to the historic African American village which was razed, displacing families and a flourishing community to make way for the expansion of Central Park in 1857.

Concern regarding the May 25th incident wherein Amy Christy, a White Woman phoned in a fraudulent police complaint against bird watcher Christian Cooper, a Black man, accusing him of threatening her life as an African American man in Central Park, was raised and will be expressed to the Public Safety Committee. How can accountability acts of fraud preclude these occurrences which far too often result in devastating impacts on lives and communities.

Outcome:

Next Steps:

- Find out the status of RFP for the Lincoln Correctional Facility located at 31-33 West 110th Street
- Resolution draft and circulation to Committee members for submission to Executive Committee on May 27th
- Lists of suggested stakeholders and potential partners to be submitted - invitational letter will be sent inviting membership to subcommittee and attendance at June 10th Parks and Recreation Committee meeting

III. Voting Items

- a. Resolution To Support Exhibit In Central Park To Be Dedicated to the Exonerated Five and Social Justice

Outcome: The Committee voted unanimously to support the Resolution
Voting Results: 0 - No, 0 - Abstentions, 6 - Yes

IV. Old Business

- a. NYC Parks will make a presentation at the June 10th Committee meeting on the CB 10 waterfront status

Zoom Videoconference Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

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