



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, December 9th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:50 pm and was held in the Manhattan CB10 conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Derrick Graham and Maurice Sessoms.

Committee Members Excused: Kevin Bitterman

Committee Members Absent: Lupe Moreno, Troy Gethers, Dabney Montgomery and Barbara Nelson.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes (NYC Parks), Shammell Martin (Partnerships For Parks), Khalif Yisrael (Frederick Douglas Academy Parent), Adeyemi Anthony Mahon (Frederick Douglas Academy I H.S.), Jacob Morris (Harlem Historical Society), Bethany Bingham (New Yorkers For Parks), Rene Harrison and Andirele Ahmed (WE ACT).

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Chess Festival Event** – The proposed Chess Festival will be a collaborative effort of Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee, NYC Parks, Chess-in-the-Schools and Harlem Historic Parks as well as interested local area organizations and businesses.

The Chess Festival will consist of 5 major components; (1) instruction for Beginners, both youth and adults, (2) Grand Master playing Advanced Players, (3) Speed Chess Tournaments, (4) Puzzle-solving competitions and (5) Chess Store.

NYC Parks Department will provide \$7,000 towards the event. The balance will be provided through in-kind contributions. The site of the event will be Colonel Young Playground located between Fifth Avenue and Malcolm X Boulevard from 143rd to 145th Streets

Outcome: The Committee is developing a budget for submission to the Executive Committee and will request a listing of expenses from the Chess in the Schools Program. The spring 2016 date for the event is to be determined.

- B. **PARK UPDATES** – There is an urgent need for Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers for Manhattan CB 10. The homeless population is not exclusively exhibiting aberrant behavior in our local parks. Running water from an unclosed hydrant in Colonel Young Playground may have caused flooding on the ball field. A request will be made to change the hydrant cover to a tamper-proof locking system. NYC Parks was advised of a drainage problem at 155th Street. The community recommended installation of redesigned drains to alleviate debris compaction in addition to increased ongoing and more frequent drain maintenance in CB 10 parks.

The Capital Project Trakker was reviewed in meeting and provided the most recent data pertaining to park renovation status of CB 10 parks including NYC Parks Community Parks Initiative Program (CPI); MLK Jr. Playground and St. Nicholas Park North.

The deadline for NYC Parks Capacity Grants is February 1st, 2016.

A list of specific parks have been slated for standard maintenance which also includes power washing of play equipment with the addition of fresh coats of paint. Leaf cleaning in the park is still ongoing as leaves are still falling. Recruitment for parks volunteers is ongoing.

The Jackie Robinson Park Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for December 10th. Friends groups of CB 10 parks are participating in the NYC Parks' Christmas Tree Program.

Outcome: The Committee will continue to take park updates under advisement as we consider community parks and recreation issues in alignment with the committee's mission. The Committee continues to emphasize the urgency for assignment of PEP Officers to major CB 10 parks.

- C. **2017 BUDGET PRIORITIES** – The Committee and Community reviewed items previously vetted in committee and added new entries and began to prioritize the items.

The non-prioritized list of items are as follows:

Maintenance Expenses

- Provide additional maintenance staff for park comfort stations in CB 10, ongoing landscaping and maintenance for all CB10 parks and playgrounds, additional staffing of park seasonal maintenance staff additional staffing of park management

- Provide staff positions for Playground Associates for CB 10 playgrounds and materials to run recreational programs for children during the summer months
- Provide additional PEP Officers to serve Manhattan
- Provide additional maintenance equipment vehicles

Capital Expenses

- Upgrade the fields at Colonel Young Playground to include both baseball, football and soccer use
- Install NEX turf on the ball park field of Colonel Young Playground
- Install a combination football/soccer goal post in Colonel Young Playground
- Continue to provide programs that promote community-based park-partnership activities and event
- Maintain Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls
- Identify and provide resources to support the development of a designated dirt bike facility that will promote safe and responsible ridership
- Provide an immediate and temporary designated dirt riding bike park facility in the interim of the development of a permanent facility
- Transfer HPD and DCAS properties to the NYC Parks Department for creation of green space and gardens in the vacant areas in the district
- Development of a Harlem River Park waterfront Esplanade
- Successful and integrated approach to rodent management in CB 10 park facilities
- Continue the support of installation of playground amenities and equipment to assist the disabled
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Colonel Young Playground
- Rebuild Courtney Callendar comfort station
- Provide enhanced lighting for Colonel Young Triangle
- Provide biographical plaques and installation to commemorate park namesakes in CB 10
- Provide enhanced lighting for Jackie Robinson Park
- Install dog stations around park perimeter at Colonel Young Playground
- Provide programs for educational components to facilitate school and community groups to engage youth in ecological studies in CB 10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in CB 10 parks
- Refurbish the comfort station at Colonel Young Playground
- Repave the run around the ball park perimeter of Colonel Young Playground to enable walking and jogging exercises
- Install a grill/picnic area in Colonel Young Playground
- Provide Port-o-Sands in interim of comfort station repairs in CB 10 parks and playgrounds

- Installation of two (2) water bottle filling stations per Colonel Young Playground and Jackie Robinson Park
- Provide improved drainage in Jackie Robinson Park ball field

Outcome: Further review will be made by the Committee to complete item priorities.

D. **Parks Without Borders** – Committee Chair Karen Horry attended a December 20th informational meeting held by NYC Parks Department Commissioner Mitchell Silver for all twelve Manhattan Community Boards' Parks and Recreation Committee Chairs, District Managers and Board Chairs. The objective of the meeting was to promote a nominating process that will allow the community to select up to eight sites citywide that will qualify for \$50 million in mayoral funding available for Parks Without Borders capital projects. Community input is also being solicited for smaller projects in parks citywide.

Parks Without Borders focuses on three areas of the park: entrances, edges, and park-adjacent spaces. This new design approach will help unify park spaces with the neighborhoods they serve. It will make entrances more welcoming, convenient and easy to find. The proposed project will make park boundaries greener and more comfortable with furnishing and amenities and make parks safer by improving sight lines. It will also create new centers of community activity out of underused areas next to parks.

The Community can visit <http://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning/parks-without-borders> to advise NYC Parks of a park that would benefit from the Parks Without Borders approach. On the map or through the search bar below, find the park you're interested in and suggest ways to improve its entrances, edges, and park-adjacent spaces. Suggestions will help in the selection of sites and will influence the design of the projects. Comments will be taken until the end of February 2016. Using this input the program will then select – and fund – the best eight parks to showcase the program. The selected projects will be announced in spring 2016.

Outcome: Parks Without Borders will be presenting at the upcoming Parks and Recreation Committee scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th. Outreach will be done in collaboration with the Parks Department to incorporate all community stakeholders.

PRESENTATION

A. **Open Space Index (OSI) and Potential Partnerships** - The Open Space Index (OSI) is a set of 15 specific open space and sustainability standards designed to provide residents, community groups and public officials with data about the strengths and weaknesses of local open space

conditions. Communities can use the OSI to assess and prioritize their open space needs, identify environmental sustainability opportunities and organize and build advocacy campaigns. Public officials can use the OSI to more effectively target capital spending on park and other open space improvements. New Yorkers for Parks (NY₄P), an independent not-for-profit organization operating city-wide to bring equity to park users, will conduct the research assessment and compilation of data. The project will require a budget provided by a designated funding source. OSIs have already been completed for City Council Districts 4 and 5, Mott Haven and East Harlem. Andy Nieto, Director of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital Community Health Education Outreach was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency but will engage a dialogue with New Yorkers for Parks.

Ms. Bingham shared that NY₄P will be hosting a new community outreach initiative; How's Your Park, NYC? As NYC's only research and advocacy-based parks organization, NY₄P specializes in studying all aspects of our parks and open spaces. A major goal of the not-for-profit's research is to reach and inform everyday New Yorkers who are doing on-the-ground stewardship and advocacy in their local parks. NY₄P wants to hear directly from the dedicated New Yorkers that care for our local parks, gardens, and open spaces, It is their hope that the feedback gained from community members will facilitate a better understanding of on-the-ground conditions in parks, as well as identify trends that may be happening on both a borough-wide and citywide level. NY₄P is seeking to build a network of advocates throughout NYC who can work in collaboration with NY₄P to push for a better budget for parks, and advocate for improved conditions in all parks in all neighborhoods.

The event check-in begins at 6 pm on January 21st and will run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This will be an opportunity to meet other open space stewards and NY₄P staff. Dinner will be provided. The location is the Patagonia – SoHo, 72 Greene Street, NY, NY 10012.

Outcome: Mr. Nieto and Ms. Bingham of New Yorkers for Parks will be discussing the possible interest of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital funding the OSI project in the interest of utilization of parks in the CB 10 area and health impacts on local area residents.

The Committee did not have quorum. Five of the now eight standing members were absent including one excused member. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.