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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021, 6:30 pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:35 pm and was held via Zoom link. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Barbara Nelson, Derek Perkinson, Marcus Wilson, Terri Wisdom, Karen Dixon and Tahanie Aboushi

Committee Members in Excused: Kevin Bitterman

Committee Members Absent: Deborah Gilliard and Nadine Pinkett

Board Members Present: -

Board Chair Cecily Harris and District Manager Shatic Mitchell

Guests in attendance: Chauncey Parker (Deputy Commissioner NYPD Community Partnerships), Jamie Baez, Shamier Settle, James Felton Keith, Shena Kaufman (District 9 Manager - NYC Parks), Kieva Felts (Harlem Archery), Paul Jeffries (NYCFC), Irfan Ahmed (NYC Parks), Sriram Sridharan, Julius Key, Jana LaSorte (NYC Parks), Gregory Baggett (A. Philip Randolph Square) and Michelle Bishop (Public Art - NYC Parks), Karina Smith (NYC Parks - Chief of Staff to the Assistant Commissioner for Community Outreach and Partnership Development).

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Presentations

- a. Colonel Charles Young Playground Projects (West 145th to West 143rd Streets from Malcolm X Boulevard to Harlem River Drive
 - i. NYC Soccer Initiative to Build and Maintain and Acrylic Mini-soccer play space: The 4.675 sq. ft. project site is currently one of four existing basketball courts located on the Harlem River side of the park and is adjacent to a handball court. The proposed space neighbors the Harlem Global Academy and the Harlem Children's Zone 369th Harlem Armory site and will provide students with immediate proximity to future programming and diverse athletic choices. Colonel Charles Young Playground has been selected as one of 50 locations by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, and is designed to create play spaces in

underserved neighborhoods across the five boroughs. The project will be implemented over the next eight years and integrate after-school programming for up to 10,000 youth and young adults, with preference given to youth. The private-public partnership is a collaboration of NYC Parks, NYC Housing Authority, NYC Department of Education, Mayor's Fund To Advance New York City, U.S. Soccer Foundation, NYC Football Club (NYCFC), Adidas, Inc and Etihad Airways. The NYC Soccer Initiative will implement a variety of soccer programs offered by its founding partners and collaborate with other local organizations that have existing soccer initiatives and activities. The "Soccer for Success", a free after-school soccer program developed by the U.S. Soccer Foundation will promote the establishment of healthy habits, development of critical life skills through coach-mentoring and family engagement. Each youth participant will be provided with a complementary uniform and soccer ball and will attend 90 minutes of play per day, 3 days per week for 24 weeks per year. The program will address the decrease of obesity, improved aerobic capacity, healthy nutrition, improved academic performance and conflict resolution and avoidance of gang-related violence. This will be the second such mini-soccer pitch which was installed in Fred Johnson Park and has been an extremely successful program.

The project scope of work includes:

1. Resurfacing of the pavement area with custom NYCFC colors and partner logos on pitches, including the Parks Department
2. Laykold Masters Color (LM) system is the manufacturer for the performance, all-weather, acrylic surface
3. Installation of two (2) Kwik Goal futsal goals anchored into the ground at each end of pitch
4. The installation of black galvanized fencing with gate access on sideline will include 55' of 10' fencing on the east and west boundary and 85' of 4' fencing on the northern boundary
5. Incorporation of the existing fencing on the southern boundary
6. The \$55,800 budget will include the surfacing materials, fencing, logo design, goals, freight and all installation costs
7. Installation timing will consist of 3-6 weeks with installation by Spring

The NYCFC intends to either raise or contribute an additional \$600,000 to create a fund dedicated to field repairs.

ii. Basketball Court -

In addition, through a collaborative partnership with the NYPD, 4 existing Basketball Courts will also be upgraded. The scope of work will entail the following:

- **Main Court located at the 145th section** -asphalt removal - grade as necessary- and complete court resurfacing, refurbishing of existing fencing, straighten the backboard frame on sanction on the south side of the court, refinishing and painting of existing bleachers and benches outside of court fencing;

- **3 Basketball Courts located on the Harlem River side of the park** - removal of the 6 existing backboards and goals and replacement with 6 new NYCDPR standard polycarbonate backboards and goals as well as court re-surfacing on each of the courts;
- court sports coating/color seal coating and all court playing lines to be applied to each of the new pavements;

The total estimated cost for improvements to the four basketball courts is \$400,000.

iii. Ball-field Upgrade - pending

III. Discussions:

a. NYC RFP - Friedsam Memorial Carousel issued DATE: December 23, 2020.

Request for Proposals for the Operation and Maintenance of the Friedsam Memorial Carousel with the option to operate one (1) mobile gifts and souvenirs concession and up to three (3) mobile food concessions in Central Park, Manhattan. In accordance with Section 1-13 of the Concession Rules of the City of New York, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) intends to issue a significant Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation and maintenance of the Friedsam Memorial Carousel with the option to operate one (1) mobile gifts and souvenirs concession and up to three (3) mobile food concessions in Central Park, Manhattan. The RFP will provide for a term of five (5) years. No longer term will be considered. The concession will be operated pursuant to a license issued by Parks; no leasehold or other proprietary right will be offered. This concession has been determined not to be a major concession as defined in Chapter 7 of the Rules of the City Planning Commission. Please direct any further questions or suggestions you may have regarding the development of the scope of the RFP to Phylicia Murray, Project Manager, by phone at (212) 360-3407 or via email at Phylicia.Murray@parks.nyc.gov, by no later than February 1, 2021. **Outcome:** Information will be sent out to local area

b. Proposal: Jackie Robinson Recreation Center Upgrade to Promote Year-Round Use: Skating Rink and Pool.

Harlem's Jackie Robinson Pool measuring 235 x 82 feet was designed by architects Aymar Embury II and Harry Ahrens to accommodate 4,090 bathers at a time. The facility was once known as "Colonial Park Pool," in reference to the area's role in key Revolutionary War battles. The facility opening on August 8, 1936 featured Bill "Bojangles" Robinson singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" to a crowd of 25,000. The facility was named for baseball legend Jackie Robinson in 1978, The pool and play center (including the atrium interior) were designated an official New York City Landmark in 2007. The project to reconstruct deteriorated structural systems at the pool facility was completed in 2017. The project to reconstruct deteriorated electrical systems at the parks and recreation pool facility was also completed in 2017. The project to reconstruct the pool piping hangers and supports at various locations citywide was scheduled to begin

in January 2020 and has a revised completion date from January 2021 to January 2023. Jackie Robinson Park is a premiere Harlem park which spans ten blocks from 145th to 155th Streets between Edgecombe and Bradhurst Avenues. It is one of four spaces designated Historic Harlem Parks and has strong ties to the community. Jackie Robinson Park, nominated for Parks Without Borders (PWB) by the community, underwent a \$4.7 million upgrade featuring reconstructed entrances, paths, and stairways at multiple locations to improve access and beautify the park's southern and northern edges. The project also added new plantings, fencing, and benches along Edgecombe Avenue. The park now features a restored pathway that connects a reopened entrance to an updated plaza with new seating and lighting. The project was completed in June 2020.

Ice skating has many health and wellness benefits and is a great venue for outdoor exercise during the winter months. Ice-skating is a fun form of intense cardiovascular exercise which improves balance and builds muscle in the legs and core. Ice Hockey In Harlem IHIF uses the sport of hockey to engage students and improve their self-esteem, while also providing a safe after school alternative and improves their school attendance and grades.

Outcome: The Committee is recommending (1) the upgrade of the Jackie Robinson pool to a year round facility as a pool and ice skating rink to optimize utilization and community benefit and (2) advocacy for reinstallation of the Jackie Robinson mural.

- c. **CB 10 Park Safety in COVID-19 :** City parks are open. Park goers are asked to take extra precautions to stay healthy and safe and should wear face coverings and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and others when outside and avoid congregating in groups. Park restrooms are open and being cleaned daily with appropriate cleaning products to ensure that they are being fully disinfected. Playgrounds are open. Adults and children are asked to wear a face covering and maintain at least six feet of distance between each child not in the same household. Playgrounds are cleaned daily, however, play equipment is not sterilized. Caregivers are asked to keep children home if they or their child feels sick, and to wash hands frequently, including before and after using play equipment. Fields and courts are open. Participants should continue to wear face coverings, follow social distancing protocols and avoid participating in high-contact sports such as football and pick-up basketball.
- d. **CB 10 Park Updates**
 - i. William McCray Playground sinkhole repair- still pending.

I. Voting

- a. Motion made by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi and seconded by Hon. Karen Dixon
Motion: To Support Proposed Soccer Mini-Pitch for Colonel Charles Young Playground

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

(Hon. Karen Horry - aye, Hon. Karen Dixon - aye, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - aye, Hon. Marcus Wilson - aye, Hon. Terri Wisdom - aye, Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris - aye.)

I. Old Business

a. Exonerated Five Subcommittee

- i. Update; Letters of Support obtained to date (List) Feedback received from NYC Parks and Central Park Conservancy on January 12th a subcommittee meeting will be called to discuss development of an educational component for the commemoration.

b. Community Feedback

i. Harlem River Park Waterfront Resiliency Study Area - Tide Deck

1. Experts from Department of Environmental Conservation will be invited for February meeting to discuss available programming.

c. Collaboration with Clemson University- Resilient Urban Design - School of Architecture CB10 Parks - Tactical Urbanism - Determination of suggested scope of work pending for the following:

- i. A. Philip Randolph Square (ACP Boulevard, St Nicholas Ave. and West 117th Street)
- ii. Harlem River Park (Harlem Drive and 142nd Street) - Scope of Work:
New Business

II. Announcements

- a. Temporary art installation - NYC Parks in Colonel Charles Young Triangle by January 31st.

III. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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