



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

HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 10th, 2014, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:35 pm and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Committee Members in attendance: Derrick Graham, Barbara Nelson, Troy Gethers, Lupe Moreno and Dabney Montgomery were excused. Board Member Brandi North was present.

Latoya Anderson, Community Assistant, was also present.

Guest in attendance: Shamell Martin (Partnership For Parks), Kieishsha Y. Garnes (Manager-Manhattan) NYC Department of Parks and Recreation), Noreen D. Dresser (119th Street Block Association), Jeannie Nedd (119th Street Block Association), Maria Freeman (119th Street Block Association), Tom Lunke (Harlem Community Development Corporation), Travis Felder (Harlem Community Development Corporation), LaVerne J. Williams (Lenox Terrace Apartments), Sandra Cobb (Lenox Terrace Apartments), Ellis A. Mercer (Manager, Hansborough Recreation Center- NYC DPR), Gustavo Solis (DNA Info)

PRESENTATIONS

A.119th Street Block Association – Raccoons – (Jennie Nede, Noreen Dean Dresser)- The 119th Street Block Association is experiencing a proliferation of raccoons in and around 119th Street and Lenox Avenue. Wild raccoons are susceptible to distemper and rabies and are prone to bite when afraid, hungry or angry. Both genders are inclined to aggressive behavior during mating and can transmit parasites or rabies to humans. This is currently their mating season. Raccoons bites usually require stitches and can cause long-term anxiety and other psychosocial trauma. Raccoons are known for causing damage to property. They can destroy or eat cables and wood. They can be destructive and dangerous animals. Neighborhood residents are feeling trapped in their own homes and are seriously concerned about the safety of their families from animal intrusions onto their properties.

Outcome: The issue will be recommended for presentations at the December 17th District Service Cabinet meeting to request (1) an update 311 intake data to reflect wild life complaints, since the agency currently does not have a designated category and (2) identification of the appropriate agency that will conduct a catch and release program for non-indigenous wild animals found in the city.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **COLONEL YOUNG PLAYGROUND-** The Community is awaiting a follow-up collaborative meeting to an October initial meeting with Borough President Brewer, other Elected officials, the District Attorney's Office and the parks Department to implement restoration plans for Colonel Young Playground. The playground equipment and handball courts were generously painted in October by a corporate volunteer group in Colonel Young Playground.

Outcome: An initial design concept is being finalized and will be provided by Steve Simon (Borough Manhattan Chief of Staff) after the Office of the Borough President reviews and approves the document. It will then be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Committee before the end of December. The information will be used to prepare for follow-up to the first meeting that took place in October.

- B. **HARLEM RIVER PARK – (TOM LUNKE)** – Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) will no longer be heading the Harlem River Park Task Force (HRTF) as a result of restructuring of the state agency. HCDC will now be focusing on job training and employment.

Harlem River Park is a multi-phased project being constructed by the City of New York on 20 acres along the Manhattan side of the Harlem River, between the Harlem River and the Harlem River Drive, from 125th to 145th Streets. Once completed, it will connect to an existing waterfront esplanade south of 125th Street to 63rd Street.

Phase I of Harlem River Park (132nd to 138th Streets) was completed in November 2002. It includes a reconstructed river edge, trees, lawn, benches, murals, decorative paving, a bike lane, and an art piece that also serves as a children's spray shower. Phases II and III (138th to 145th Streets) were completed in the summer of 2009. They have an environmentally sensitive edge treatment that is a prototype for other waterfront edges throughout the city and will include additional murals painted by local school children and teaching artists. A southern phase (125th to 132nd Streets) is in need of funding and the land is currently being used by NYC DOT as a construction staging area for several of its transportation projects in the area.

Harlem River Park Task Force, formed with community stakeholders in December 2001 and led by HCDC, is a group of local, citywide and regional organizations and elected officials that meet monthly to help the city plan and manage Harlem River Park. The task force has been instrumental in generating the local community support needed to fund, design and construct this environmentally and culturally sensitive waterfront gathering spot. The task force is also active in (1) expanding the park northward in partnership with Esplanade Gardens and the MTA, (2) improving and making safer local intersections and pedestrian/vehicular ramps leading to the park, (3) providing local artists with the ability to create and permanently display their art in the park, (4) developing and environmentally sustainable alternative to a proposed

elevated highway on-ramp over the Harlem River Drive, and (5) providing employment and economic development opportunities for local residents.

Outcome: The 142nd Street Block Association will collaborate with Lenox Terrace residents to take on the leadership role in transitioning Harlem River Park from management by Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) to community management, with the support and guidance of partnership For Parks.

C. LENOX TERRACE CONCERNED TENANTS, (SANDRA COBB)-HANSBOROUGH RECREATION CENTER TOXIC FUMES (ELLIS MERCER)

-Lenox Terrace Apartments consists of six residential buildings, some of which are adjacent or otherwise proximal to New York City's Hansborough Recreation Center (HRC) located at 35 West 134th Street. For more than two years residents have expressed their concerns about the constant emission of strong and toxic smelling fumes as well as visible emissions of smoke plumes. Residents have complained through a variety of channels, i.e., 311, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Health, Department of Environmental Protection and elected officials. Ellis Mercer, HRC Manager, as well as his predecessor, have reached out to residents with a promise that plans have been made to replace the boiler, however, to date the facility's chimney continues to spew smoke. Residents report that they are unable to open the window unless they incur the risk of having their apartments filled with the smoke and a noxious odor. Lenox Terrace Apartments has a large seniors' population, children and individuals who suffer from respiratory and cardiovascular ailments. These health issues are exacerbated by exposure to the emissions emanating from HRC. The residents are seeking permanent remedy to the problem.

Outcome: The committee will recommend to the Executive Committee that a letter be written to the Parks Department Special Task Force on Boiler Maintenance to advise that residents remain concerned and although conditions have improved with respect to boiler emissions, would like assurance that the Parks Department is being vigilant in consistent monitoring of the situation and will provide a detailed plan and timeframe for implementation of a permanent solution.

D. 2017 BUDGET PRIORITIES – Committee Members were not in attendance. Item will be discussed at January meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A letter of support was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee for the Central Park Conservancy and issued.

A letter of support was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee for the creation of the Garden of Infinite Possibilities and issued.

NYC Parks held a charrette for the St. Nicholas Park Renovations Project (128th and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.) this evening. The Park is included in the NYC Parks and Recreation Department's Community Parks initiative Program.

A quorum was not present so there were no action items. There were no other Committee Members present other than the Committee Chair. Five of the six standing members were excused.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.