



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

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District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 13th, 2015, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:30 pm and was held in the 3rd Floor Conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Derrick Graham and Maurice Sessoms, Kevin Bitterman, Lupe Moreno, Mark Bones

Board Members in attendance – Shonelle Washington

Committee Members Excused: Dabney Montgomery

Committee Members Absent: Levert Holmes, Troy Gethers, and Barbara Nelson.

District Manager Andrew LaSalle was also in attendance

Guests in attendance: Matt Drury (NYC Parks), August Williams-Eynon (NYC Parks), Captain William Cardoza, Jr. (Parks Enforcement Patrol), Kieishsha Y. Garnes (NYC Parks), William Pape (Partnerships For Parks), Deloris Henderson (Deloris Henderson Photography), Connie Lee (Marcus Garvey Park Alliance – MGPA), Bijal Shah (MGPA), Eugene Middleton, Dwayne Johnson, Mary Alford (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle – FFDC), Axel G. , Bill O'Donnell (FFDC), Noel Byfield (NYC Parks Hansborough Recreation), Jamil Phillips (NYC Parks Hansborough Recreation), Mark Anthony Ortiz, Ihaylee Molina, Eric Moore, Laverne Taylor (Save A Park- Save a Child – Fred Samuels Playground), Jalah Williams (Frederick Douglass Academy 1 – FDA1), Calvin Smith (FDA1), Daryle Henry (FDA1), Tamia Moore (FDA1), Paul G. Huck, Susan Huck (MGPA), Maitland McDonagh, Frank Lovece (FFDC), Claudia Anderson (The 142nd Street Block Association), Z.I. Freeman (Bethune Towers Tenants Association), Debora Grant (Bethune Towers Tenants Association), Elijah Brooks (Youth-On-The-Move), Jessica Walker (Mount Morris Park Community Improvement Association) and Abena Smith (32nd Precinct Community Council).

PRESENTATION

- A. **Parks Without Borders** – NYC Parks made a presentation on the "Parks Without Borders" project which is a comprehensive mayoral initiative. The Parks Department will select up to eight sites citywide for capital improvement 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 and under-utilized 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.

Criteria that would strengthen park candidacy include, but are not limited to, proximity to points of interest and evidence of strong community support.

The Committee submitted as preliminary nominations; Colonel Young Playground, Bill Bojangles Playground, Fred Samuels Playground, Howard Bennet Playground and Harlem River Park. Colonel Young Playground is strongly being considered for nomination. The Community discussion and feedback was extremely fruitful. Parks made maps and design information regarding these five suggested parks for community consideration. Outreach was successful. The meeting was heavily attended by community residents and friends groups of CB10 parks as well as neighboring parks. About 50 attendees were present.

Outcome: The Community is encouraged to provide feedback on the presentation by registering their comments on the website: <http://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning/parks-without-borders> to nominate a CB 10 park that would benefit from the Parks Without Borders approach. On the map or through the search bar provided, 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.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Park Updates** – Residents expressed concern around gender issues and simultaneous usage of park comfort stations by adults and unattended children. Parks is prohibited from discriminating based on gender bias, if however, an individual demonstrates undesirable behavior then enforcement can proceed. The concern is for safety of unaccompanied children utilizing the comfort stations. The Parks Department must be in compliance with Human Rights Commission policies with respect to use of public facilities and the LGBTQ community.

Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle are requesting anti-skateboarding modifications to prevent vandalism and other issues at Frederick Douglass Circle. Thomas Jefferson Park was suggested as a site for a skateboard

facility. Feasibility as well as sound issues must be considered for a possible site selection. Harlem River Park was also suggested.

Major concerns are ongoing pertaining to night usage of the Colonel Young Playground ball field by adult sports groups. The Committee will contact the ball field permit office to ascertain the data on permit distribution and policies.

The NYC Department of Parks mandates that an adult in the area of the children's playground be accompanied by a child. The adult physical fitness area in Colonel Young playground is located right across from the comfort station and adjacent to the swing and children's playground areas. Area redesign may be warranted.

Design completion and approval have been done for the two CB 10 Community Partnership Initiatives (CPI) projects; Martin Luther King, Jr. Playground and St. Nicholas Park North. The projects are now in procurement phase. Proposals are being considered from contractors for construction. Minimum wage and Union membership policies must be adhered to.

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 and plans to draft a resolution to reflect the need. FFDBC will return to the Committee to present an anti-skateboarding modification proposal for the Frederick Douglass Circle.

- A. **Chess Festival** – The proposed Chess Festival will be a collaborative effort of Manhattan CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee, NYC Parks and the Chess-in-the-Schools Foundation as well as interested local area schools, 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 by the Board and 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. The Youth On The Move organization will donate chairs for the event. The Committee is currently looking for tables and a public address system to facilitate the event as well as additional resources.

Outcome: The Committee is continuing to develop a budget for submission to the Executive Committee. The spring 2016 date for the event is to be determined.

- C. **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.

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 at the February meeting.

- D. **2017 Budget Priorities** – The Committee and Community reviewed items previously vetted in committee and added new entries and are in the process of prioritizing the items.

The non-prioritized list of items with new additions 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 in CB 10 parks and playgrounds
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Colonel Young Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Fred Samuels Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment for children in Fred Samuels 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
- Provide enhanced lighting for Fred Samuels Playground
- 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
- Provide community gardening and programming in Fred Samuels Playground
- 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 and track
- 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, Colonel Young Playground and Fred Samuels Playground
- Anti-skateboarding modifications to prevent vandalism and other issues at Frederick Douglass Circle
- Relocate the adult exercise equipment in Colonel Young Playground so that it is not proximal to the children's playground areas

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

The December minutes were adopted by the Committee.

The voting item; Budget Priorities was tabled as a result of new community input. The revisions will be incorporated into the existing draft. The deadline for submission is April.

The Committee **did have quorum**. Three of the now ten standing members were absent and one member excused. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.