



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:36 pm and was held in the 4th Floor Conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Troy Gethers, Maurice Sessoms and Leevert Holmes

Committee Members Excused: Kevin Bitterman and Derrick Graham

Committee Members Absent: Arian Punter, Mark Bones and Crystal Shipp

Guests in attendance: Jamil Phillips (Hansborough Center), Kim McNeal (NYCDPR – Chief of Recreation), Jorge Prado (Parks Department – Director - Architecture), Chad McNeil (Department Parks and Recreation – Design), Ricardo Hinkle (Department Parks and Recreation – Design), Kjirsten Alexander (Department Parks and Recreation – Design), Stuart Spencer (Resident), and Kieishsha Y. Garnes (DPR- Park Manager – Districts 10 and 11), Steve Simon (NYC Parks), Sonya Simmons (Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy)

PRESENTATIONS

A. JACKIE ROBINSON PARK WITHOUT BORDERS –

The \$4.4 million projected is to be completed by 2019. The park, which was landmarked in 2007, features amenities along Bradhurst which are not currently ADA compliant. One hundred (100) community residents attended the October 17th scope meeting. The public workshop generated community feedback on issues and concerns throughout the entire park. The consensus was to focus on greatest needs, which were deemed to be the northern and central areas of the park and the stairs located on Edgecombe Avenue. Additional funding is being sought by the Parks Department to expand the scope of the project to include the entrance at 145th Street.

Attending resident and Chair of Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy requested the rationale for excluding the entrance at 145th Street – Parks explained its objective to improve safety at the 155th Street entrance. In response to the concerns, Parks will explore alternative design plans and present, once again, on site at the Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy - Parks will return in a few months to present the final concept plan.

A recommendation was made for the Board to request a speedbump for the area along Bradhurst Avenue to increase pedestrian safety.

Outcome: The Parks Department will arrange to return to the Community at the Jackie Robinson site to review design schematics with additional options for design focus to include renovations to the southern end of the park; the 145th Street entrance.

B. HANSBOROUGH – NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT –

The 6,000 SF Hansborough Recreation Center is located at 35 West 134th Street on Lenox Terrace Place between Malcolm X Boulevard and 5th Avenue in CB 10. The facility was originally constructed in 1922 and opened to the public on June 1, 1925 as the 134th Street Bathhouse under Manhattan Borough President Julius Miller, to promote public health, hygiene and recreation. A 1927 news article described the Harlem facility as a stunning natatorium (indoor swimming pool) decorated with tiles, mosaics and ceramic panels depicting sea creatures. The building has not been landmarked.

The proposed renovation project will reconstruct the entrance and interior spaces of the Hansborough Recreation Center, including: (1) upgrade of the canopy and signs at the building entry, (2) renovation of the lobby, vestibule and 4th floor fitness room and (3) create access to the running track as a result of the removal of the spiral staircase and infill with glass. The renovations will make the facility fully code compliant and eligible for the New York City Department of Buildings Certificate of Occupancy.

The schematic design for the project has been approved internally by the NYC Parks Department and is now undergoing review by external regulatory agencies. The upgrades are designed to promote greater safety and more optimal utilization of the Recreation Center.

The design phase runs from March 2016 through May 2017. The average time for construction is 12-18 months and will not require any closures of the facility during the construction. The Hansborough Recreation Center, is one of 5 centers selected out of a total of 35 NYC Parks Department Recreation Centers citywide. The project will total between \$1 and \$3 million and will be funded by the Mayor's Community Parks Initiative.

The renovations will upgrade the fitness and recreational amenities, enhance the environmental qualities of the site and facilitate increased community recreational use. The NYC Parks Department requested a resolution in support of the project.

Outcome:

The Committee was in favor of the project. The positive sentiment will be conveyed to the Executive Committee in recommendation of a full Board vote in support of a Resolution for renovation of the NYC Parks Hansborough Recreation Center.

DISCUSSIONS

A. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT/BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Committee narrowed down budget priority requests to optimize chances for funding, to the following:

Maintenance Expenses

- Provide additional maintenance staff for park comfort stations in CB10, 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 associates for CB10 playgrounds and materials to run recreational programs for children during the summer months
- Provide additional 15 additional PEP officers to serve northern Manhattan to create a total staff of 25
- Provide additional maintenance equipment vehicles
- Successful and integrated approach to rodent management in CB10

Capital Expenses

- Renovate Colonel Charles Young Playground through installation of NEX turf on the ball field to support multiple sports options including football, soccer and lacrosse in addition to baseball.
- Maintain Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls
- Continue the support of installation of playground amenities and equipment to assist the disabled in CB10 parks and playgrounds
- Upgrade of lighting to improve luminosity of CB10 parks and playgrounds
- Provide programs for educational components to facilitate school and community groups to engage youth in ecological studies in CB10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in CB10 parks
- Refurbish the comfort station at Colonel Charles Young Playground
- Repave the run around the ball park perimeter of Colonel Young Playground to enable walking and jogging exercises as well as track.

- Provide port-o-Sands in interim of comfort station repairs in CB10 parks and playgrounds
- Installation of two (2) water bottle filling stations per Colonel Charles Young Playground and Jackie Robinson Park
- Anti-skateboarding modifications to prevent vandalism and other issues at Frederick Douglass Circle
- Increase and relocate the adult exercise equipment in Colonel Charles Young Playground so that it is not proximal to the children's playground areas

The Committee **did not have quorum**. Five of the nine standing members were absent. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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