



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, April 13, 2016, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:35 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, Mark Bones, Maurice Sessoms and Leever Holmes

Committee Members Excused: Kevin Bitterman, Derrick Graham

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

Guests in attendance: Connie Lee (Marcus Garvey Park Alliance - MGPA), Susa Huck (MGPA), Karen Smith (MGPA), Stan Squirewall (MGPA – Artist), Shamell Martin (Historic Harlem Parks) and Doug Wade (Alimoe Youth Basketball League).

PRESENTATIONS

- A. **Public Art Initiative – Marcus Garvey Park Alliance (MGPA)** – Connie Lee, President of the organization presented and is requesting the support of the Committee in identifying local area artists to participate in their public art initiative.

The Public Art Initiative is an ongoing program spearheaded by MGPA to encourage artists, curators and cultural organizations to propose temporary public art installations for sites throughout East and Central Harlem. The MGPA Public Art Initiative Committee desires to work collaboratively to facilitate designated projects with city agencies and to attract public and private funding to assist artists with the costs of replication including materials and installation.

MGPA is encouraging all parks groups, cultural organizations, artists and curators to participate. Public art installations are currently being planned for spring and summer 2016. The installations will be on view for a minimum of 1 month with many of the art works being on view for 3 months with a maximum of 11 months.

The Committee advised that the displayed art should celebrate the historic Black American culture of the Central Harlem area.

The proposed objectives of the MGPA project are as follows:

- Celebrate the creative and cultural identity of the community
- Create opportunity for artists to exhibit their work with a priority given to local artists
- Attract private and corporate sponsors for artists projects
- Engage community residents with art and cultural organizations and venues within the Community
- Attract visitors from other NYC neighborhoods to explore the Central and East Harlem Communities
- Attract national and international tourists to experience the creative culture that both Central and East Harlem are famous for
- Activate and enhance public spaces to meet the needs of the Community
- Increase fundraising capacity for participating community and cultural organizations
- Attract private funds to New York City Parks in Northern Manhattan
- Build public/private partnerships
- Direct foot traffic and patrons to small businesses and cultural institutions

MGPA will be partnering with:

- The New Harlem East Merchants Association/Uptown Grand Central Urban Innovations
- Urban Innovations
- AHRC Fisher Center
- Hope Community Jeremy Vega Mural Project
- Historic Harlem Parks Administrator
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
- Friends of Art Park Alliance
- Friends of Morningside Park

- Flux Art Fair
- Art in Flux
- West Harlem Art Fund
- Health Gallery
- Various Artists

Proposed installation scheduled for April through August 2016 sites are:

- Marcus Garvey Park
- East Harlem Art Park
- Morningside Park
- Jackie Robinson Park*
- 25th Precinct Exterior wall

- Park Avenue under the “E1”
- Lenox Avenue (unspecified)*
- Fifth Avenue (unspecified)**
- East 106th Street

(* CB 10 jurisdiction, **potentially CB10 jurisdiction)

MGPA advises that they will facilitate the approval process with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR) and Department of Transportation (DOT).

Outcome: the Committee will reach out to the Community to connect local area artists and artist organizations to put artists in touch with the Marcus Garvey Park Alliance and will consider inviting MGPA to the May or June meeting for follow-up.

- B. Wi-Fi – Fred Johnson Park – David Dinkins Tennis Club At The Jungle – Diane H. Sargent** – The organization is requesting the initiation of Wi-Fi service at the Fred Johnson Park located at West 149th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. This initiative is in response to members of the organization voicing a desire to have Wi-Fi service in the CB 10 park. The group feels that the service will be an invaluable addition to the park amenities. The park has wide-spread, year-round use. The group feels that access to Wi-Fi in the park will also increase the park’s safety.

The group is requesting a letter of support.

Outcome: The Committee found the project to be favorable and asked the organization to return with petitions and letters of support from area residents, local community-based organizations and elected officials to substantiate community support.

DISCUSSIONS

- A. 2016 Parks and Recreation Committee Community Outreach Event – NYC Parks Department and Recreation Center Resources in CB10** – event the Committee agreed to organize an outdoor event to highlight NYC Parks Department resources in one of our local parks. The event will be scheduled for a Saturday date in September, 2016 and will be family-oriented appeal to all age groups. There will be information tabling, light refreshments, giveaways and children’s activities. Shamell Martin of Historic Harlem Parks graciously provided a resource list of New York City Parks agencies and affiliates.

Outcome: The Committee will be contacting the designated NYC Parks Department agencies to arrange for the outdoor event in Colonel Young Playground.

B. CB 10 Skateboard Facility Needs Assessment Survey –

As an outgrowth of the discussion it was suggested that the sport of skateboarding is being engaged in by a growing number of youth in the area as a recreational option and would thereby dictate the need for a skateboarding facility within CB 10 for local area youth. In response to a directive from the Executive Cabinet the Parks and Recreation Committee explored the possibility and logistics for a skateboarding facility within the boundaries of CB 10.

The Harlem River Park, which has yet-to-be completed phases within CB 10, was suggested from an urban planning perspective. Thomas Jefferson Park in East Harlem is slated for installation of a new skateboard facility; construction beginning in fall 2016 and taking about six months for completion. A more elaborately designed facility is scheduled for Riverside Park, located at 108th Street; re-construction of the existing skateboard facility, built in 1995, will begin in spring of 2017 with completion by spring 2018.

Outcome: The Committee is continuing to draft a needs-assessment survey to be distributed to community recreation centers, schools and other agencies dealing with local area youth to discern community-based interest for the project. Adult and youth skate boarding advocates will be invited to attend the May or June Committee meeting for their input.

The Committee also explored the possibility of advocacy for a summer free lunch program for children in CB10 parks. The project has been held previously in neighboring Marcus Garvey Park. The SchoolFood Lunch Program, designed to provide children and young adults with a healthy alternative to junk food, would benefit CB10 youth in summer 2016. Lunch is available for all children under 19 years of age and all people with disabilities, regardless of age, who participate in special education programs. In 2015, breakfast was served during the Learn to Swim Program at NYC Parks' pool facilities in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens. Meals were free and provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through SchoolFood, a part of the New York City Department of Education.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.