



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

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District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, September 9th, 2020, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:36 pm and was held via Zoom link. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Karen Horry, Karen Dixon, Barbara Nelson, Kevin Bitterman, Marcus Wilson, and Tahanie Aboushi

Committee Members Absent: Deborah Gilliard, Nadine Pickett and Derek Perkinson

Board Members Present: Board Chair Cicely Harris, District Manager Shatic Mitchell and Stephanie Palmer

Guests in attendance: Shena Kaufman (District 9 Manager - NYC Parks), Gregory Baggett (A. Philip Randolph Neighborhood Alliance), Kathy Eberle (Captioner), Dana Mondesire, Jamie Baez (Community Resident), Charlie Bass and Laura Stanley (Community Resident)

Welcome to new Committee Members: Nadine Pinkett, Terri Wisdom and Marcus Wilson. We look forward to teaming with you to bring about a productive FY21 Parks and Recreation Committee.

I. Discussions

a. Colonel Charles Young Playground Ball-Field Upgrade

Project still in discussions. The project has been extended to also include renovation of the playground. Parks is seeking to identify funding for the playground component. The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation will be funding the ball-field entirely. Parks is also searching to ascertain funding for renovation of the playground.

b. Parks Without Borders - Jackie Robinson Park

Overall, the Community is pleased with the park upgrade. The columns on the 145th Street park side from Bradhurst to Edgecombe that are currently painted red are going to be repainted to a brown shade that was used on Marcus Garvey pool. DCAS monies are not currently available for expenditures that are non-COVID-19 or storm-related, so paint job is on hold. The column painting was not a part of the Parks Without Borders Project.

The handball court is being heavily used by exercise groups. Parks is currently seeking to prevent barbecuing inside of the handball court area.

Jana LaSoto has been appointed the new Administrator for District 9 Historic Parks and will begin her new position on Monday, September 14th. Ms.LaSoto will be invited to attend our October Committee meeting.

c. Clemson University - Resilient Urban Design - School of Architecture

i. CB 10 Parks - Tactical Urbanism

Clemson University offer to assist in optimizing and enhancing park usage in the CB 10 area was passed unanimously by the full Board at the September 2nd General Board Meeting.

Concerns which can be suggested to be addressed by the Clemson University Graduate Team:

- Strategies to incentivize parents and children to social distance in playground areas
- General social distancing
- Deterrence of drug activity
- Homelessness
- Sports activities and social distancing to prevent spread of COVID-19

In response to the issue raised pertaining to the loitering problem on 124th Street a recommendation was made to write letters of complaint to drug facilities and cc: to licensing agencies such as Oasis and Beth Israel to encourage clients from remaining in area after servicing, as well as reporting to 311. Licenses are issued every 3 years, renewal can be affected by complaint volume.

Outcome: Board will send letter of acceptance to Clemson. The Committee will have to wait for Clemson's approval before scheduling and coordinating with the Graduate Program.

The matter of 124th Street which is ongoing and problematic will be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

d. District Needs Statement

Committee reviewed 2021 District Needs Statement that was circulated via e-mail by District Manager on August 26th, in addition to copy of drafted Parks District Need Statement submitted by the Committee for FY 2021. District Needs Statement for 2022 submission is due by October 30th. Committee Members were also advised to attend the CD - Needs and Budget Requests Support Training Webinar scheduled for Thursday, September 10th (6 pm to 7:30 pm) or Tuesday, September 15th (6 pm to 7:30 pm)

Outcome: The Committee Members will follow-up via e-mail with any recommendations.

II. Voting - There were no voting items

III. Old Business

a. Exonerated Five Subcommittee

The subcommittee had two meetings; June 18th and July 30th. Three Community Outreach Panel Discussions were held; July 9th, July 16th and July 23rd. The third panel discussion

included Film Maker Sarah Burns and Actor/Activist Malik Yoba. A telephone conference was held on July 25th with Community Board Chair Cicely Harris, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Karen Horry, Sam Biederman Director, NYC Parks Division of Arts and Antiquities, Sr. Vice President of Planning for Central Park Conservancy Lane Addonizio and Manhattan Borough Director for the Mayor's Office, Isaiah Jenkins. Committee was asked to submit a Statement of Needs and Objectives for the project. The document is in the final stages of preparation and was critiqued by the drafters for revisions on September 9th. The final copy will be reviewed in sub-committee during the week of September 14th, pending Zoom meeting availability.

A subcommittee walk-through group which included Mrs. Sharonne Salaam identified an in-park site for commemoration as the **110th Street and Fifth Avenue entrance area**.

Outcome: Upon approval, the Statement of Objectives and Goals will be sent to the aforementioned agencies; Mayor's Office, NYC Parks and Central Park Conservancy as well as the Borough President's Office.

b. Community Feedback

i. Harlem River Park Waterfront Resiliency Study in CB 10

Outcome: The Committee Members will follow-up via e-mail with any recommendations.

- ii. 280 West 155th Street - Brownfield CleanUp and Re-Purposing - issue to be referred to Land Use Committee - determined to be a non-parks issue - Land Use Co-Chair Karen Dixon was advised.

c. Park Updates

1. St. Nicholas Park North renaming to Byrd Classic Park is in discussion and still pending
2. Bill Bojangles renovations still in progress - completion expected by end of October
3. Fredrick Johnson Playground construction is in progress Harlem Lane Playground work has been halted - no explanation was available - Shena will follow-up to find answer. NYC Parks divisional offices have been closed - staff has been working virtually Correspondence has been slow. Shena will also follow-up on how the playgrounds can be tied into any waterfront design plans.
4. Park Staff August 31st lay-offs have been delayed. 6,000 DC 37 Members threatened with lay-offs. Parks is looking at alternative strategies in order to prevent action, i.e., use of buy-outs. Employees must be given 30 days notice in advance.
5. Labor Day weekend went a lot smoother than the previous weekend - Users of the park were much more responsible in their handling of noise and garbage disposal. Police were on-site at Jackie Robinson Park to prevent double and triple parking.

6. No schools in the CB10 area have requested the use of the parks for outdoor classes. The time and expense of transporting tables and chairs on a daily basis may have been a deterrent.
7. P.S. 194 opted not to use the proximal Renaissance Park because of gun violence in the area.
8. All recreational equipment removed during the peak COVID-19 period has been returned to the parks.

IV. New Business - None

V. Announcements

- a. **Sunday, September 13th is National Grandparents Day**

VI. Adjournment

The Committee **did have quorum**, six of the ten standing members were in attendance. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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