

Queens Borough President Recommendation

APPLICATION: ULURP #050319 MMQ

COMMUNITY BOARD: Q01

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the NYC Charter, and Section 5-430 et seq. of the NYC Administrative Code for an amendment to the City Map involving:

- the establishment of Socrates Sculpture Park within an area generally bounded by 33rd Road, Vernon Boulevard, 30th Road and the U.S. Pierhead and Bulkhead Line; and
- the establishment of a Public Place west of Vernon Boulevard and the intersection of Broadway; and
- the elimination, discontinuance and closing of 31st Avenue and Broadway west of Vernon Boulevard; and
- the adjustment of grades and block dimensions necessitated thereby;

including authorization for any acquisition or disposition of real property related thereto, in Community District 1, Block 499 Lot 52, Block 501 Lots 1, 16, 31, 60, 101 & 112, Borough of Queens, in accordance with Map No. 4983 dated November 19, 2015 and signed by the Borough President.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held in the Borough President's Conference Room at 120-55 Queens Boulevard on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 10:30 A.M. pursuant to Section 82(5) of the New York City Charter and was duly advertised in the manner specified in Section 197-c (i) of the New York City Charter. The applicant made a presentation. There were no other speakers. The hearing was closed.

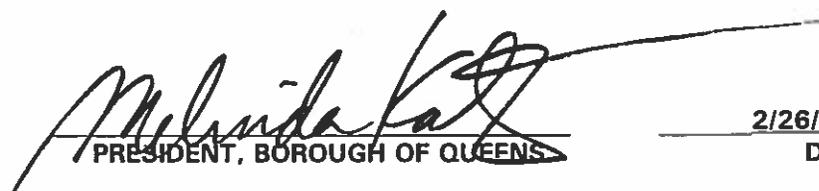
CONSIDERATION

Subsequent to a review of the application and consideration of testimony received at the public hearing, the following issues and impacts have been identified:

- The Department of Parks and Recreation has filed this application to formally map Socrates Sculpture Park as an official New York City Park. This action will require some street and map adjustments, acquisitions that would facilitate the operations of the sculpture park;
- Socrates Sculpture Park has been operated by a not for profit organization since its conception as an open space dedicated to promoting the arts and cultural activities. Previous to the establishment of the sculpture park there had been a history of illegal dumping on the site. The continued presence of the sculpture park for over thirty-years and all of the local neighborhood educational programming, arts and cultural events held there has made the waterfront site into an invaluable neighborhood resource;
- The surrounding neighborhood immediately around the park is semi-industrial. However, there are also commercial and residential uses in the nearby area.
- Community Board 1 approved this application by a unanimous vote of forty (40) in favor with none (0) against or abstaining at public hearing held on January 12, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the above consideration, I hereby recommend approval of this application.


PRESIDENT, BOROUGH OF QUEENS

2/26/16
DATE