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Joseph Russo
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

Parks Committee Meeting (rev. 10/18/19)

Thursday, October 10 @ 7:30 P.M.

- Present:** T. Franklin, R. Bieder, P. Del-Debbio, C. Isales, D. Krynicki, J. Landi, S. McMillan, J. Russo, T. Smith
- Absent:** I. Guanill
- Guests:** S. Goodstein, T. McMahon, T. Kurtz, C. & R. Fitzpatrick, C. Fragola, C. Cebek, K. Zias, M. Anderson, J. Schwan, F. Rubin, Z. Hailu, E. Balkan, L. Baldwin, C. Swett, E. Joseph, M. Hunt, J. Doyle, L. Nye, L. & D. Malavolta

Chairperson Franklin read the standing rules on committee meetings to the public. The meeting commenced at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first agenda item was a presentation led by Pelham Bay Parks Administrator, Marianne Anderson, on updates regarding the Pelham Bay Landfill. A digital copy of the presentation will be kept at the Board Office.

The committee voted to have public speaking at the beginning of each committee meeting and at the discretion of the committee chairperson should the agenda contain multiple topics. The motion was proposed by T. Franklin and seconded by R. Bieder and unanimously approved.

The last agenda item was a discussion on Hart Island. Community Board #10 voted to approve jurisdictional change of Hart Island in 2015. Currently, the Department of Corrections has jurisdiction. Recently proposed legislation will transfer Hart Island to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Residents of City Island submitted petitions, statements, and other materials detailing their positions and opinions. Chairperson Franklin allowed Committee Members and members of the public to issue statements and/or question the subject of jurisdictional change.

New York City Council staffers discussed three (3) pieces of legislation in total that will affect Hart Island. Legislation involves jurisdictional change, a transportation study and the creation of a task force. Residents of City Island that spoke out against jurisdictional change argued that Hart Island and its grave site are kept in good condition, that the inmates who service it are privileged to do and fear that jurisdictional change will add to traffic congestion and will lead to further physical development of Hart Island. Residents and activists supportive of Hart Island's jurisdictional change mentioned the difficulty the public has in trying to see their loved ones' grave sites; the overall condition of Hart Island; that the change in jurisdiction does not mean that the Department of Parks will develop it.

“Resolved. . . at the recommendation of the Parks Committee to affirm the Bronx Community Board #10 resolution supporting the transfer in jurisdiction of Hart Island from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Parks and Recreation and that this be forwarded to the full Board for approval.”

The resolution did not pass by a vote of 5 against, 2 in favor and 1 abstention.