



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

April 10, 2018

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:04 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Vice Chair Kadesha Washington, Sharan Fernandez, Brandon Ganaishlal, DM Rivera

Introduction

- A. Committee Chair, Board Members & Guest
- B. Committee Description: The Parks and Recreation Committee represents the community's interests with regard to parks, park services and all park related matters and acts as a liaison between parks users and the New York City Parks Department.

Speakers/Presentations

- A. Radhy Miranda, EDC presented a powerpoint on the new ferry coming to Clason Point later this summer. The presentation will be shared with the board for distribution. As per Mr. Miranda and his team, the NYC ferry system started last year, this year two new routes were introduced, these were in Soundview and the Lower East Side. Service takes place 365 days a year and the price for service is the same as an MTA commute. Metrocards cannot be used for payment but transfers can be done between ferries. There is also a ticking app that can be used to purchase tickets and to view schedules real time.

All landings and boats are local 68 and ADA compliant. The homeport facility is in Brooklyn so boats do not stay at dock overnight. New boats are being built that have 150 capacity and boats with 350 capacity will be coming soon. They all have low weight design. All boats have spaces for stroller and bikes.

As per the presentation, in 2013 there was comprehensive city wide ferry study. In 2015 ferry sites were announced by the mayor. Since then there has been work taking place leading to launch. 92% of ferry riders live in NYC and 93% of survey takers gave the ferry a rating of 7 or higher.

There will be a late summer launch for the Soundview site. There will be a lot of testing and permitting taking place before it is opened for ridership. Slides of what the landing will look like were demonstrated to participants in the power point.

EDC representatives can help connect hiring centers to their HR program as well as their intern department, they also hope to promote local events as well as help to connect our district to other communities. They are interested in being present at several community events.

As per resident question on ferry transfer, EDC reps informed residents that there is a transfer at 34th street to connect riders to the MTA, however, this is only available at this location.

The first ferry of the day departs at 6:30am and the last ferry lands at 10pm. The ferries get to Wall street in about 45-50 minutes. There will be cameras on the landing and NYPD will have a heavy presence.

As per DM Rivera, he would like to have a meeting at Shore Haven at least a month before the ferry launch.

As per rep, MTA busses are able to make the loop at the end of Soundview are working with Parks to leave gate open during ferry hours. EDC is working with MTA to extend bus two stops, residents should keep applying pressure for this.

As per DM Rivera residents are asking for LaGuardia connection. As per reps, we have heard this and are looking to expand to other locations in the future.

As per DM electeds will be working on additional cameras for the ferry.

As per Walter Nestler, how do you expect people to commute to the ferry? How do people with disabilities access the ferry? The distance from the closets MTA is a quarter mile walk.

- B. Carla Singleton, YMCA presented on an upcoming street fair, Summer Fest. She discussed approval of Street Activity Permit as well as the desire to inform all city agencies of this event. YMCA is in process of getting permits and documentations necessary to host this event. Event flyer was shared. CB9 was invited to table and distribute information on voting.
- C. Parks discussed Noble Playground and the reconstruction of the playground. They requested a resolution or letter in support of the project. All comfort stations will be ADA complaint. Power point presentation was shared with participants. Upgrading of electrical, mechanical, and plumbing will take place here. Parks in design now for this project which will be done by the end of the year then it will go to procurement. Windows will be replaced to allow optimal sunlight inside and doors will be made ADA complaint. There will also be new fixtures. Ramps will be repaired so the site will be completely ADA complaint. Noble Playground History was shared with participants. As per Parks no new fences are going up. The new comfort station will house a women's restroom, men's restroom and a mechanical room; including ADA complaint sinks, stalls, etc. Rough rendering of striped and refurbished comfort station was shared.

As per resident, will there be maintenance for bathrooms? As per Patricia, Parks Rep, bathrooms will be cleaned every day as per contract. Design for this is done in house.
- D. Elizabeth Mazala spoke about the UNIQLO expressions grant which was awarded for a second year and will be installed in July at Virginia Park. A picture of mural was shared with all participants. The colorful mural will be bright and the design is inspired by floral patterns. The current mural at Virginia Park will be powerwashed to prepare for this one. This will be there for one year and will remain during construction. A rehab could be done if the mural is there longer than expected. It will be visible from the train as well. Artist would like to involve community partners as well to help with the mural.
- E. Laura James presented on the Bronx River Art Center. They will be opening on the 21st of April for their first activity after being out of the building for 7 years. Slides were presented to participant and event flyers were shared. Their fair will take place June 30th-July 1st in honor of the first fair that took place 100 years ago. The Bronx River Art Center is calling for entrepreneurs from Bronx based business to attend as fair will act as an expo for emerging entrepreneurs. As per DM Rivera, flyer to be added to email bulletin.

There will be 8 pieces showcased at Starlight Park, which was confirmed to be in the CB9 district, handouts with pictures of these art pieces were shared with meeting participants. There will be seating near the bridge so that pieces can be seen from there. One mural will be under the 174st bridge with reflective paint. Starlight ride will be painted and put into the ground here. One piece that was most popular was a piece that included a pulse reading with colors. Teens will be helping artist build their designs. There will also be an arch that will include works of other artists. The projects will be there for one year. The hope is that this becomes an ongoing thing and that this becomes a sculpture park

Old Business

- A. As per Walter Nestler, can we get an update from Parks Borough Commissioner Office regarding the concession at Clason Point Park? As per Michael Ortiz, he will follow-up on this as he was unprepared to address this concern. As per Walter Nestler, this was supposed to be built since 2010.

New Business

- A. Joan Barnes presented regarding Soundview Park events and spoke about the appreciation luncheon held on March 15th, there were around 35 employees and awards were given out to let staffers know we love the work they do at the park.

There was also a yellow sheet with the Soundview Park Event Calendar distributed to participants and a green sheet distributed about partners, iNaturalist, who have a website that hosts a competition, worldwide this year that runs for 4 days, and encourages residents to document different types of greenery. As per Parks Vice Chair Kadesha Washington, Ms. Barnes should also present this at the General Board Meeting.

As per Ms. Barnes, Save the Date for the Friends of Soundview Park's 9th Annual Art & Musical Festival in the park. Flyers will be distributed and more information will be given as the date gets closer.

- B. As per Vice Chair Kadesha Washington, Parks Chair Jaime Feliberty would like for CB9 to write a letter of support to the Friends of Soundview Park in reference to getting Summer Stage Concerts back in the Parks. The letter should be addressed to city parks foundation. As per Vice Chair, she proposes that we will look into the steps to make this happen and figure out who we need to send this to and by when.

As per Parks representative, she received a permit in reference to concerts at the amphitheater in Soundview but is still waiting to hear about exact details on this.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

OFFICE INFO

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