



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, December 14, 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, Troy Gethers, Maurice Sessoms, Kevin Bitterman, Derrick Graham and Crystal Shipp

Committee Members Absent: Arian Punter, Mark Bones and Leever Holmes

Guests in attendance: Jonathan Kuhn (NYC Parks Department – Director – Art and Antiquities), Colombina Valera Nick Molinari (NYC Department Parks– Design), Ricardo Hinkle (NYC Parks Department– Design), Kjirsten Alexander (NYC Parks (Steve Simon (NYC Parks Department - Manhattan Chief of Staff), Alex Bard (US Soccer Foundation), Laura Rokoff (Mayor’s Fund to Advance NYC), Frank Lovece (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle), Bill O’Donnell (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle), Maitland McDonagh (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle), Shevonn Howard (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle), Lyn Craig, Charles Yarbough (Edgecombe Avenue Resident), Kamilah Foreman (Williamson Park Association), Yvonne Andre (150th – 155th St. Edgecombe Avenue JRPC), Marcus Browne (Harlem Community Development Corporation), Sarah Teitler (Resident), Earnestine Temple (Office of NYS Assemblyman Farrell), Diane Pabucha (Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle), Benzenia Johnson (President Security 5 Block Association –Edgecombe Avenue 150th-145th Street) and Sharon Peterson (Resident 154th Street)8

PRESENTATIONS

A. FREDERICK DOUGLASS CIRCLE SKATEBOARD DESIGN PLAN

Reportedly, since the dedication of the pedestrian plaza at Frederick Douglass Circle in 2010, chronic skateboarding has damaged the plaza and memorial’s features, disturbed neighbors and created hazards that inhibit safe park usage.

Skateboarders skate along the fountain wall which divides the plaza, skate over the stairs and land at the base of the northwest edge of the plaza. Additionally, skateboarders apply wax to the edges of the low-lying seating elements before grinding on them which dramatically discolors the stone over time. While parks enforcement has been stepped up in the vicinity. The city does not have the

capacity to provide security forces around the clock, and a design solution is required to reduce the damaging and threatening behavior which constitutes a safety hazard and nuisance.

In consultation with The Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle, Al Miller (the designer of the site and fountain), plaza architect Mark Bunnell, NYC Parks division of Art & Antiquities, the Central Park Conservancy has developed a minimally-intrusive, ADA compliant plan to deter skateboarding in the Circle. The proposal was designed with guidance from Steve Rodriguez a former professional skateboarder and owner of the NY-based skateboard company 5Boro.

The proposed modifications to the plaza include installing dome-textured pavers at the base of the stairs at the northwest edge of the circle and creating a rusticated edge on the low-lying seating elements. It is believed that the installation of dome-textured pavers at the base of the stairs will discourage the preponderance of skateboarders who skate over the stairs and land at the base. The rusticated edge proposed for the low-lying seating elements will prevent skateboarders from smoothly grinding the metal trucks of their skateboards across the edge. The cost of the project is estimated at \$92,820 (\$106,743 with a 15% contingency).

Outcome: Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and will issue a letter of support, contingent upon additional substantiation of community support. Friends of Frederick Douglass Circle will submit by January.

B. NYC PARKS WITHOUT BORDERS – JACKIE ROBINSON PARK

The Parks Department returned with an alternative design priority plan for the Jackie Robinson Parks Without Borders project. The alternative; Option #2 will not include tree guards and benches along Edgecombe Avenue. An additional \$2 million in funding would be required, additional funding sources to shore up the gap will be explored. The New York State Assembly and the City Council may be possible funding sources.

Option #1

PHASE 1:

NORTHERN CONNECTION

- ENTRANCE 155TH / EDGECOMBE
- ENTRANCE 152ND / BRADHURST
- TWO STAIRWAYS
- CONNECTING PATH

CENTRAL CONNECTION:

- ENTRANCE 150TH / BRADHURST
- CONNECTING PATHS

WESTERN BORDER

- ENTRANCE 149TH / EDGECOMBE

- EDGECOMBE AVE SOUTH

PHASE 2:

- ALLEE TO BANDSHELL - ADA

SOUTHERN CONNECTION

- ENTRANCE 145TH / EDGECOMBE
- ENTRANCE 146TH / BRADHURST
- STAIRWAY
- CONNECTING PATH - ADA

SOUTHERN BORDER

- SIDEWALK 145TH / BRADHURST

Option #2

PHASE 1:

NORTHERN CONNECTION

- ENTRANCE 155TH / EDGECOMBE
- ENTRANCE 152ND / BRADHURST
- TWO STAIRWAYS
- CONNECTING PATH

SOUTHERN CONNECTION

- ENTRANCE 145TH / EDGECOMBE
- ENTRANCE 146TH / BRADHURST
- STAIRWAY
- CONNECTING PATH - ADA

WESTERN BORDER

- EDGECOMBE AVE SOUTH (FENCE ONLY)

PHASE 2: (not funded)

WESTERN BORDER

- EDGECOMBE AVE SOUTH (TREE PITS AND BENCHES)

CENTRAL CONNECTION:

- ENTRANCE 150TH / BRADHURST
- CONNECTING PATHS
- ALLEE TO BANDSHELL - ADA

SOUTHERN BORDER

- SIDEWALK 145TH / BRADHURST

Outcome:

The NYC Parks Department sought guidance in next steps for the project design and would like to move forward with the lengthy process which also includes landmark status. Consensus of Committee and Community in attendance was to move forward with Option #2 of the revised plans in response to community concerns.

C. NYC SOCCER INITIATIVE

Fred Johnson Park, located at West 151st – 154th Streets, between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and the Harlem River Drive, has been selected as a proposed location for an NYC Soccer Initiative site. The 4,675 sq. ft., currently unused, volley ball court is adjacent to tennis and handball courts and proximal to the park's comfort station. The space is adjacent to the Frederick Douglass Academy and PS 200 – The James McCune Smith School and will provide CB 10 students with immediate proximity to future athletic programming that will increase youth choice. The five year program will be delivered through a DYCD RFP.

The Funding collaborators for the project include: The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the New York City Football Club (NYCFC), Adidas, Inc., NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, the NYC Housing Authority and the NYC Department of Education.

Soccer is a sport that is on the rise in CB 10, as our community becomes more diverse. The highly structured co-ed program, designed to introduce youth in grades 5-8 to the world of soccer, features curriculum components that include soccer topic discussions and explorations, healthy nutrition education, soccer scrimmage activities and a closing circle entailing a summary of the day. This "Soccer for Success" program was developed by the U.S. Soccer Foundation. It is a non-competitive, free after-school program that has been proven to help youth establish healthy habits and develop critical life skills through caring coach-mentoring and family engagement.

The NYC Soccer Initiative is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership with a goal to build and maintain 50 acrylic mini-soccer play spaces in underserved neighborhoods across the five boroughs over the next five years. The program will also work to integrate after-school programming for as many as 10,000 New York City youth and young adults.

Permits will be used to coordinate the site usage, with priority given to Soccer Initiative youth participants. The participants will be engaged 90 minutes per day, 3 days per week and 24 weeks per year. Shin guards, a jersey and a soccer ball will be given to each youth participant. The New York City Football Club (NYCFC) will sponsor trips to games, an end-of-year jamboree and professional player interaction with the community.

The acrylic application and construction over 3-6 weeks will not require park closure.

Outcome: Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and to issue a letter of support by early January.

DISCUSSIONS

A. HANSBOROUGH RECREATION CENTER RESOLUTION REVIEW

The Committee will continue to review the resolution as it awaits submission regarding substantiation of community support in addition to the Hansborough Center current membership endorsement.

Outcome: Committee sentiment is in favor of the project and to issue a letter of support contingent upon additional substantiation of community support.

The Committee **did have quorum**. Three of the nine standing members were absent. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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