



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Chairperson

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District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, March 9th, 2016, 6:30pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:45 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, Mark Bones and Kevin Bitterman

District Manager Andrew LaSalle was also in attendance.

Committee Members Excused: Leevert Holmes, Lupe Moreno and Maurice Sessoms

Committee Members Absent: Derrick Graham, Troy Gethers, and Barbara Nelson.

Guests in attendance: Kieishsha Y. Garnes (NYC Park- Park Manager-Districts 10 and 11), Crenna Fernandez (New School), Briana Turnbull (New School), Anjali Devjani (New School), Nadirah Ahmed (WEACT), Charlotte Grillet (New School) and Aaron Pulver

Guests in attendance via Telephone Conference: Luscian Reynolds (Manhattan Borough President's Office) and Steve Simon (NYC Parks Department - Manhattan Chief of Staff)

DISCUSSIONS

- A. **Site Exploration for CB 10 Skateboard Facility** – Friends of the Frederick Douglass Boulevard Circle (FFDBC) requested support of an anti-skateboarding modification proposal for the Circle to preclude skateboarding activity. The group reported that the structure is continuously being vandalized by skateboarders who find the current structure and configuration conducive to their sport. They also shared that NYC Park and Police actions have not been effective in deterring the problem.

The group is requesting a resolution in support of the modifications to be recommended to the Department of Parks and Recreation and/or the Central Park Conservancy. They have already secured a resolution from Community Board 7. The group was advised that they would need to provide substantiation of community support for the project.

As an outgrowth of the discussion it was suggested that the sport of skateboarding is being engaged in by a growing number of youth in the area as a recreational option and would thereby dictate the need for a skateboarding facility within CB 10 for local area youth. In response to a directive from the Executive Cabinet the Parks and Recreation Committee explored the possibility and logistics for a skateboarding facility within the boundaries of CB 10.

The Harlem River Park, which has yet-to-be completed phases within CB 10, was suggested from an urban planning perspective. Thomas Jefferson Park in East Harlem is slated for installation of a new skateboard facility; construction beginning in Fall 2016 and taking about six months for completion. A more elaborately designed facility is scheduled for Riverside Park, located at 108th Street; re-construction of the existing skateboard facility, built in 1995, will begin in Spring of 2017 with completion by Spring 2018. It was suggested that skateboarders who are utilizing the Circle may be attracted to the more challenging design of the renovated site which is proximal to the Frederick Douglass Circle area. The posting of signage is recommended to direct skateboarders to the facility.

Outcome: The Committee will draft a needs-assessment survey to be distributed to community recreation centers, schools and other agencies dealing with local area youth to discern community-based interest for the project.

- B. **2018 Budget Priorities** – The Committee is still collecting community input.

The non-prioritized list of items to date is as follows:

Maintenance Expenses

- Provide additional maintenance staff for park comfort stations in CB 10, ongoing landscaping and maintenance for all CB10 parks and playgrounds, additional staffing of park seasonal maintenance staff additional staffing of park management
- Provide staff positions for Playground Associates for CB 10 playgrounds and materials to run recreational programs for children during the summer months
- Provide additional PEP Officers to serve Manhattan
- Provide additional maintenance equipment vehicles

Capital Expenses

- Upgrade the fields at Colonel Young Playground to include both baseball, football and soccer use
- Install NEX turf on the ball park field of Colonel Young Playground

- Install a combination football/soccer goal post in Colonel Young Playground
- Continue to provide programs that promote community-based park-partnership activities and event
- Maintain Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls
- Identify and provide resources to support the development of a designated dirt bike facility that will promote safe and responsible ridership
- Provide an immediate and temporary designated dirt riding bike park facility in the interim of the development of a permanent facility
- Transfer HPD and DCAS properties to the NYC Parks Department for creation of green space and gardens in the vacant areas in the district
- Development of a Harlem River Park waterfront Esplanade
- Successful and integrated approach to rodent management in CB 10 park facilities
- Continue the support of installation of playground amenities and equipment to assist the disabled in CB 10 parks and playgrounds
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Colonel Young Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment and area in Fred Samuels Playground
- Increase the exercise equipment for children in Fred Samuels Playground
- Rebuild Courtney Callendar comfort station
- Provide enhanced lighting for Colonel Young Triangle
- Provide biographical plaques and installation to commemorate park namesakes in CB 10
- Provide enhanced lighting for Jackie Robinson Park
- Provide enhanced lighting for Fred Samuels Playground
- Install dog stations around park perimeter at Colonel Young Playground
- Provide programs for educational components to facilitate school and community groups to engage youth in ecological studies in CB 10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in CB 10 parks
- Provide community gardening and programming in Fred Samuels Playground
- Refurbish the comfort station at Colonel Young Playground
- Repave the run around the ball park perimeter of Colonel Young Playground to enable walking and jogging exercises and track
- Install a grill/picnic area in Colonel Young Playground
- Provide Port-o-Sands in interim of comfort station repairs in CB 10 parks and playgrounds
- Installation of two (2) water bottle filling stations per Colonel Young Playground and Jackie Robinson Park
- Provide improved drainage in Jackie Robinson Park ball field, Colonel Young Playground and Fred Samuels Playground

- Anti-skateboarding modifications to prevent vandalism and other issues at Frederick Douglass Circle
- Relocate the adult exercise equipment in Colonel Young Playground so that it is not proximal to the children's playground areas

Outcome: The Committee will compare requests cleared for the 2017 budget and complete item priorities for 2018 based upon Community input for April submission.

- C. **Colonel Young Playground and NYC Parks Without Borders** – The community comment intake period ended after February 29th. The Committee will draft a letter to be sent to elected officials and community-based organizations to ask their support in nominating Colonel Young Playground for the Parks Without Borders project.

Outcome: The Committee will draft a letter to solicit the support of elected officials and community-based organizations in support of the nomination of Colonel Young Playground.

- C. **2016 Parks and Recreation Committee Outreach Event – NYC Park Resources** – The Chess Festival will be postponed until Spring 2017 to allow for greater preparation time. In lieu of the event the Committee agreed to organize an outdoor event to highlight NYC Parks Department resources in one of our local parks. The event will be family-oriented and also appeal to all age groups. There will be information tabling, light refreshments, giveaways and children's activities.

Outcome: The Committee is gathering information to prepare for the fall 2016 event.

*Fallen trees can be reported to hotline: 646-613-1200.

Acceptance of January and February minutes were tabled to April in view of a lack of quorum.

The Committee **did not have quorum**. Three of the now nine standing members were absent and three members excused. The Committee strongly suggests that members attend to achieve quorum for all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.