



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

SHATIC MITCHELL
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:30 pm and was held via Zoom link. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair, Hon. Karen Horry, Hon. Derek Perkinson, Hon. Verna Diggs, Hon. Marcus Wilson, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi, Hon. Dana Points, Hon. Barbara Nelson and Hon. Terri Wisdom

Committee Members Excused: Hon. Shamier Settle

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Kevin Bitterman

Board Members Present: Hon. Donna Gill and Dominick Boyce

District Office: Juanita Anderson (Community Liaison) and Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

Guests in Attendance: Lane Addonizio (Sr. VP Planning - CPC), Leslie Peoples (Director of Landscape Architecture - Manhattan, Capital Projects - NYC Parks), Steve Simon (Chief of Staff to the Manhattan Borough Commissioner), David Williams (Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks), Julius Key (Malcolm X Improvement Association), Abena Smith, Antoine McLaurin, Bruce Lincoln (Executive Director, Harlem Lacrosse), Tefone Herring, Gracie Cedres, Rhonda McLean, Patrick Managan, Iris G., Dana Mondesire, Charlie Bass and Zakiya DeGraffe-Nicholson (Director, Hansborough Rec. Center NYC Parks) and Gregg Rappaport.

I. **Presentations**

A. Central Park Conservancy (CPC) Projects to Restore the Kinderberg Site and Renovate the Chess & Checkers House - Lane Addonizio Sr. VP Planning - CPC The project is a continuation of the restoration of the Children's District that began with the Conservancy's recently completed restoration of the Conservatory Garden and Dairy Access Path renovation project, supported by a CB 10 resolution in 2020. The sites are part of the "Children's District" which is the historic name of an area near the southeast corner of the Park, north of the 59th Street Pond and south of the 65th Street Transverse, between the Center Drive and the East Drive Park.

1. Objectives of the project include:

- a) Restoration of the Kinderberg site in keeping with the historic purpose and design of the Park and to serve the needs of contemporary park users
- b) Address of the condition of the chess & checkers house
- c) Provision of restroom facilities for visitors to the Children's District
- d) Address of the accessibility of the facility

2. The Scope of Work includes:

- a) Recreation of a rustic shelter, based on the original Kinderberg structure, encompassing the existing Chess & Checkers House
- b) In kind replacement of the existing asphalt hexagonal pavers.
- c) Restoration of the exterior of the Chess & Checkers House
- d) Replacement of the roof, cupola, windows and doors in-kind
- e) Renovation of the interior of the Chess & Checkers house to include public restrooms as well as space to support public programs
- f) Upgrade of the existing mechanical and utility systems
- g) Construction of an ADA - accessible ramp to the facility in the slope on the east side of the Kinderberg, adjacent to the existing stairs
- h) Restoration of the existing stairs and addition of handrails

CPC has met with surrounding Community Boards 5, 7 and 8 who are in support of the projects. The Kinderberg restoration and the Chess & Checkers House renovation projects have a budget of \$7 Million and are completely funded. CPC and New York City Parks anticipate that the construction for the Kinderberg and Chess & Checkers House project is expected to begin in March 2022 and completed by December 2022 or January 2023. The restored Kinderberg will be rebuilt to better integrate into the landscape and increase accessibility and access for communities around Central Park.

Outcome: The Committee voted unanimously to support the resolution in support of the project.

B. William McCray Playground Sinkhole Update - Leslie Peoples, Director of Landscape Architecture - Manhattan, Capital Projects - NYC Parks The Community Parks Initiative (CPI) is an investment in neighborhood parks with the greatest needs. William McCray Playground has been designated as a CPI site.

The funding has been added to the existing funding allocated by Borough President Brewer and Councilman Perkins for the sinkhole project. The renovations will include the center spray shower plaza and basketball court. A virtual community input session will be held on January 27th to garner community feedback and suggestions. Testing and borings for the sinkhole site will be implemented during December and January. A city-registered contractor has been secured for the sinkhole assessment. Parks will send confirmation and the meeting link. Ms. People's will send name of contracting firm and CPI funding info.

Outcome: Parks will post signage to advise the community of the testing and boring work and will reach out to the principal of the St. Mark Evangelical School which is adjacent to the playground. NYC Parks will send the link and virtual meeting flyer for the January 27th design and planning meeting.

C. Malcolm X Improvement Association Suggested Mural for Colonel Charles Young Playground - Julius Key A rendering of a mural suggested for the bordering bridge wall located in Colonel Charles Young Playground was presented. The art piece depicts the history of Colonel Charles Young whom the playground honors Colonel Charles Young (1864-1922), a pioneering African American army officer, cartographer, teacher, and diplomat. Young was born in Mayslick, Kentucky on March 12, 1864, and moved to Ohio at age nine. He graduated from Ripley Colored High School in Ripley, Ohio in 1880. Young entered the United States Military

Academy at West Point in 1884 as the ninth African American to do so. He was the third and last to graduate until nearly half a century later. The piece also reflects the history of the famed 369th Harlem Hellfighters.

NYC Parks does not accept murals on a permanent basis and only a limited number of proposals are approved. Applicants are encouraged to consider alternative temporary mounting options such as plywood or vinyl banners. If approved, murals are permitted temporarily for one year. NYC Parks retains the rights to the wall and the artist must waive his or her rights to the artwork. Handball courts and historic structures will not be considered for murals.

Submission Requirements include:

- A written description of the proposed mural, including title and approximate dimensions (height x width)
- Color renderings of the mural design
- Mural artist's resume and/or a description of the sponsoring organization. Include the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
- Up to ten images of the artist's previous work. All images must be clearly labeled with the name of the artist, title of the work, media, and dimensions.
- Installation budget and method of financing
- Proposed exhibition schedule
- Image and description of the proposed mural location

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit materials at least six months prior to the intended installation date to allow time for proposal review and project development.

Outcome: The informational presentation will be noted for the Committee record.

II. Voting

A. Voting by Voice Vote

1. The Committee voted unanimously to support the drafting of a resolution in support of the project at the November meeting. Although, the groups have been in contact with CPC there are no current plans by CPC for design as the project has not been officially undertaken. CPC would come before the surrounding Boards to Central Park with developed plans for the project.

Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi. Hon. Derek Perkinson was not available for the vote.

Motion: To Support Resolution Upgrade of Lawn Sports Facilities in Central Park

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Point - yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes, Hon. Marcus Wilson - yes, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes Motion Passed

2. Motion made by Hon. Verna Diggs and seconded by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi. Hon. Derek Perkinson was not available for the vote.

Motion: To Support Resolution Restoration of the Kinderberg and Renovation of the Chess & Checkers House

Outcome: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Point

- yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes,, Hon. Marcus Wilson - yes, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes, Motion Passed

III. Discussions

- A. CB 10 Parks and Recreation Master Plan - In follow-up to Committee members review of the Parks Master Plan for CB 12 (https://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/vt_north_manhattan_parks/master_plan_pdfs/june2012/Purpose_Planning_Goals_and_Info_gathering.pdf) a proposed plan draft for CB 10 was presented. The CB 12 plan was used as a template.

Outcome: the draft will be used to guide the preparation of a Statement of Objectives and Goals for submission to NYC Parks to request a plan for CB 10 Parks.

- B. CB 10 Park Safety in COVID - 19 Park employees who have not been vaccinated must be tested every week in order to retain employment. All Park workers must wear masks - vaccinated park visitors can opt not to wear masks if not in a crowded area. All other precautions remain in place. As of May 19, New York State has implemented the CDC's Interim Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. Face coverings are still required to enter any municipal building, including bathrooms, regardless of vaccination status.
- a. The 28th Precinct was unable to attend due a previous commitment. There was no response from the 32nd Precinct. The Committee will request for representation at the January meeting to discuss remedies to gun violence in CB 10 parks.
- C. CB 10 Parks - Updates - David Williams, Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks
- a. The Colonel Charles Young Playground - NYC Parks has laid rat bait. A Christmas Tree has been installed.
 - b. Bill Bojangles Robinson Playground - Rodents are problematic in the park. Trash pickups have to be more efficient. NYC Parks mobile units will be dispatched to remove debris.
 - c. Fred Johnson Playground - The tennis court lighting availability is an ongoing problem due to the work being done to upgrade the comfort station.
 - d. A. Philip Randolph Square - Benches have been removed. A Christmas Tree has been installed.
 - e. Langston Hughes Playground - The comfort station has been opened.
 - f. St. Nicholas Playground South - The comfort station has been closed for the season and is being winterized.
 - g. Harlem Lane - update pending.
 - h. William McCray Playground - Rodents have been sighted in the park. NYC Parks sinkhole assessment will take place this month and Parks will return to the January meeting with a report and update.
 - i. Jackie Robinson Park - Leaf removal needed. Falling leaves are covering the ground and creating slippery conditions. Parks will address.
 - j. Colonel Charles Young Triangle - A community request for bench replacement, improved lighting and tree planting for the plaza was voiced at the October meeting. A letter of Recommendation was voted on unanimously by the Committee, Executive Committee and Full Board and will be forwarded to NYC Parks.

- k. Rucker Park - comfort station is in disrepair and needs cleaning and upgrade. NYC Parks will address.

- l. Hansborough Recreation Center - update pending

IV. Old Business

- A. Exonerated Five Subcommittee - The Task Force is in the process of developing content for a plaque to be sent to the Exonerated Five for their approval. There will be a series of events held throughout the week prior to the commemoration unveiling which is scheduled for the anniversary date of the exoneration.
 - a. Request to Rename Langston Hughes Playground Basketball Court to William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court - still pending
 - b. P&R Community Outreach Event - The Committee reviewed a drafted flyer of the event and details will be discussed at the January meeting.

V. New Business

VI. Announcements

- A. Jackie Robinson Holiday Lights Event - December 15th
- B. Carol Sing at Colonel Charles Playground - to be announced

VII. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Verna Diggs. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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