



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, 6:30 pm
Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:41 pm and was hybrid and was held in-person at least in the Community Board District Office Conference Room and via Zoom link. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Committee Chair

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Hon. Karen Horry, Hon. Lyn Woodley, Hon. Philip Desgranges, Hon. Jaran Manzanet and Hon. Derek Perkinson

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Nathan Quist, Hon. Elvin Garcia, Hon. Darryl Jenkins,

Committee Members Excused: Hon. Tahanie Aboushi

Board Members Present via Zoom: Hon. Donna Gill and Board Chair Hon. Marquis Harrison

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Community Associate)

Guests in-person attendance: Leverne Taylor ('Save A Park Save A Child'), Stacey Marius (Assembly member Al Taylor), Ridhi Saksena (Columbia University), Tony Rahsaan (TBO Harlem), Tyisha Smalls (WEACT), Zakiyah DeGraffe (Director - Hansborough Recreation Center, NYC Parks)

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Dave Williams ((NYC Parks District 9 Manager), Stacey's Otter Pilot, Alben Smith, Cindy Worley (Joseph P. Daniels Memorial Garden), Harlem Involved, Fitzgerald Fitzgerald, Khalid Bey, Rose Williams,

I. Welcome/Introductions

Welcome to new Committee Members in attendance; Hon. Lyn Woodley and Hon. Philip Desgranges.

II. Presentations

a. FRED SAMUELS PLAYGROUND – UPDATES & CONCERNS

The Fred Samuels Playground, Park ID: M160, Acreage: 0.69, located from W. 139th St. To W. 140th St. on Malcolm X Boulevard. The facility was upgraded 31 years ago in 1992 through a \$ 1.1 million reconstruction that provided the park with new play equipment, a basketball court, a spray shower, benches, and landscaping. Executive Director Leverne Taylor for "Save A Park Save A Child", the stewardship organization for the playground, is requesting a Letter of Support to have the comfort station upgraded through reconstruction.

The playground's comfort station has been the site of drug activity and is unusable by youth sports groups who have to find alternatives for bathroom use and changing for sports events.

Other Concerns:

- Water fountains are old and need to be upgraded
- Park House renovation is needed
- Adults w/child policy in play areas is not being enforced
- Bathroom doors remain open
- The park is used as a dog walk
- Bug pestilence behind basketball court
- Playground equipment is deteriorated

Outcome: The Committee reviewed a pre-drafted letter in support of Fred Samuel's stewardship organization; "Save A Park Save A Child" request to have NYC Parks upgrade the comfort station through reconstruction.

b. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT

The Committee reviewed a slide presentation detailing the FY'24 statement and the submitted items for 4 capital and 2 expense requests and their outcomes by NYC Parks. Community feedback garnered from previous committee meetings will be factored in as well as those requests which were not funded by NYC Parks.

Outcome: The Committee will review the drafted District Needs Statement for 2025 via email and provide commentary prior to submission to the District Needs Task Force.

III. Voting Items- Voting by Voice Vote

- Motion made by Hon. Derek Perkinson and seconded by Hon. Lyn Woodley. **Motion: To Supply A Letter of Support of Upgrade of Fred Samuels Playground Through Reconstruction**
Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Philip Desgranges - yes, Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Jaran Manzanet - yes, Hon. Lyn Woodley- yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes). **Outcome:** Motion Passed

IV. Discussions

a. CB 10 Park Updates

- Harlem River Park** - printing and weed removal has been done. parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) has been removing encampments of the homeless; one man was identified to have outstanding warrants. The lockbox is still pending restoral. No vandalism to report. Photos of nefarious or undesirable activities should be sent to Parks District Manager so that action can be taken. NY Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) waterfront projects still pending; bike greenway, comfort station and water resources (fountains, etc.). The dates for community meeting NYCEDC.
- Harlem Historic Park/ Jackie Robinson Park Update** - Small crew handling park perimeter - 150th Street mudslide has been cleaned up, the

condition had been exacerbated due to recent heavy rainfall. The flood retaining wall drain was helpful in mitigating flooding. A small homeless encampment along the 145th area was cleaned up 2 weeks ago, however population has returned - PEP and Homelessness Services will be addressing on Sunday. Staff safety being prioritized - the gardener has returned from a leave and will be cleaning up weeds. Graffiti which remains an ongoing problem will be painted over. The bandshell requires ongoing leaf cleanup due to the Autumn season. Artists will be coming to paint park benches. A work order has been placed to repair bathroom stalls that are out of service.

- iii. **Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy Updates** - The Conservancy will be working with volunteers on the "It's My Park Day" scheduled for Saturday, 10/21
- iv. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - The procurement (bidding) phase is at 60%. The project budget was increased to \$10 million and includes the renovation of the lobby, 4th floor cardio room, 2nd floor weight room, conversion of the boiler system to gas, installation of a new filter room, replacement of the elevator and reconstruction of the pool. Currently, new equipment is coming in addition to upgrades to the fitness room. Richard Martinez is the new Director of the Fitness Center and hours have been extended to include Saturdays. There is also a staff shortage. NYC Parks is requiring a contractor that will work through all seasons to complete the renovation project. The Honeys and Bears are active and are planning a year end celebration. The group is identifying which pool will be available for their use in the interim of the reconstruction period. There is a shortage of lifeguards. The Honeys and Bears will be meeting with the Parks' Commissioner. The dates for the closure of the facility is yet to be determined. Further updates will be provided as they become available. A Halloween pet show is scheduled for October 28th.
- v. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Early 2024 groundbreaking expected - date TBD. The comfort station reconstruction may be done first. Lighting is still an issue - request for service response still pending. **DOT is responsible for peripheral lighting.**
- vi. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - No update at this time. DOT has not installed safety bollards.
- vii. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - No update at this time.
- viii. **William McCray Playground** - - Test results for sinkhole condition still pending - Rats have been sighted - Maintenance crew is in before begins school begins at St. Mark The Evangelist
- ix. **Renaissance Playground** - NYCHA Drew Hamilton repaired fencing.
- x. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - Movie Under The Stars is scheduled for October 12th.
- xi. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - DOT is considering removal of parallel parking near the park.
- xii. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Tennis courts - cranks for nets repaired - 4 new nets installed with 2 more replacements pending - overgrown vegetation was pruned this week.

xiii. Fred Samuel Playground - Comfort station upgrade is needed.

Upcoming Event: “Save A Park - Save A Child” Clothing Give-away was held on September 30th 2- 6 pm.

xiv. Harlem Lane Program (Percy E. Sutton Playground) - No update at this time.

xv. Langston Hughes Playground - no update at this time.

xvi. Hancock Square - No update at this time.

xvii. ACP, Jr. Malls - No update at this time.

b. CB 10 Community Garden Updates

i. Carrie McCracken Truce Garden - cleaned up by Green Thumb.

ii. Joseph P. Daniels Garden - feral cat colony mitigates the rat problem. The garden will be hosting a Halloween Party and will be planting daffodil bulbs as an activity.⁹

All CB10 gardens are doing well. City Parks Foundation received funding from Partnership for Parks. Pop-up farmers markets - 2 more coming up at reduced costs. Gardens produced Mother’s Day and will have Halloween baskets. Cynthia Guerra is the Outreach Coordinator for Green Thumb. A grant from Green Thumb is currently available. The gardens are in collaborative partnerships with housing developments, youth and school groups through planting and harvesting workshops in the gardens. Native pollinators: bees are reported as no longer on the decline, flies and mosquitoes are being recognized as natural pollinators as well. The spotted lantern fly is a topic for discussion. Non-toxic pesticides are being used in the gardens. A Halloween party will be held.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business - None

VII. Announcements

- a.** Halloween on the Harlem Meer - Charles A. Dana Discovery Center - East Side at 110th FREE family-friendly activities. Costumes encouraged! Thursday, 10/26 at 4:00 pm
- b.** Hansborough Recreation Center - Halloween Pet Fashion Show - 35 West 134th Street Thursday,
- c.** Hansborough Recreation Center November 2nd and 9th, 2023 - [Caribbean Dance Fitness](#) **6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.** **Location:** Dance Room (in Hansborough Recreation Center) **Category:** Dance, Fitness, Shape Up NYC, Recreation Center Programming, Dance Classes, Exercise Classes. Free!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

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