



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13th 2023, 6:30 pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:40 pm and was hybrid and was held 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 and Hon. Lyn Woodley.

Committee Members in Attendance via Zoom: Hon. Philip Desgranges and Hon. Tahanie Aboushi.

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Nathan Quist, Hon. Elvin Garcia, Hon. Barbara Nelson, Hon. Darryl Jenkins, Hon. Jaran Manzanet, and Hon. Derek Perkinson.

Board Members Present: Hon. Dominick Boyce.

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

District Office: Miguel Walters (Community Associate).

Guests in-person attendance: Rolando Reyes (Harlem Children's Zone), Stacey Marius (AssemblyMember Al Taylor), Joy Gutierrez (NYC Parks), Dakota Pippins, Sam Penceal, Justin Arrington-Holmes, Andre Benjamin, Quacey Balleste, Katrina Adams, Simone Spigner, Christine Patterson, Diane Jackier Kestenbaum (Central Park Conservancy - Vice President for Program Management), (Anthony Macari, Jason Gold, Evelyn Boulware and Vernon McKenzie.

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Cranston Darius, Candy, Richard Lewis, I. Gumbs, Lynda Hamilton, Kristopher Ferrufino, Rosetta Washington Williams, Steven Simon (Chief of Staff - Manhattan, NYC Parks), Sharon Preiss (MXBB Group), Matthieu Devaux, Jennifer Nobles, Jeff Emanuel, Samuel White, Abdul Qawiyy, Eric Glaude, Khalid, Bey, Jahi-Abysinnian Jabbar, *3656, Mrs P, Edna Lieberman, *3103, Darrell Outlaw, Abena Smith, Debra Robb, Alan Siegel, Eric Alugas, Bara Sene, Michelle Jones, Aron Prince, Margot Williams, Elaine Cashin, Tyrone Howell, Michelle Grant, *7467, Nicholas L, Wayne Craig, Michael Taylor and Wayne Craig.

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Presentations

a. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CONCESSION AND ADDITION OF PERGOLA STRUCTURE AT MINERAL SPRINGS IN CENTRAL PARK

The Mineral Springs is located at West 70th Street, just north of the Sheep Meadow. The project is to renovate the exterior of the Mineral Springs Snack Bar, which was constructed around 1960 and to replace the original Mineral Springs Pavilion which was demolished that same year. The associated snack bar is located at Mineral Springs in Central Park near 69th Street and West Drive which is currently being operated by Le Pain Quotidien (LPQ) under the terms of a 15-year license agreement which will expire in 2037. Under the terms of the recent concession renewal between LPQ and NYC Parks, LPQ is tasked with making their Mineral Springs concession into a year-round facility. (LPQ also recently renovated the public restrooms and completed the repairs of the flat roof). LPQ is working on this renovation with the architectural firm, Richard H. Lewis Architect (RLA). RLA has a long history of work in the New York food industry, including the recent renovation of Tavern on the Green in Central Park. The final phase of improvements will include the in-kind restoration of the sloped slate roof and cupola. The concessionaire is also proposing to install a year-round structure at the existing outdoor seating terrace. The footprint of this dining area will remain the same and also the pergola frame will be connected structurally to the existing masonry building. The pergola structure is completely demountable and reversible. The Scope of Work will include the construction of a prefabricated pergola structure, installation of a operable louvered roof with aluminum blades, foundational posts attached to son out every concrete footings in the ground, floor resurfacing with new concrete slab with new bluestone pavers in a running bond pattern and the installation of infrared heaters and ceiling fans for in-door climate control.

Outcome: In the absence of a quorum no vote was taken, however, the sentiment of the Committee was to move the proposed resolution on to the Executive Committee.

b. CB10 PARKS MASTER PLAN

CB 10 submitted a Letter of Request to NYC Parks in February 2022 for the development of a 10 year Master Plan for our parks. The mission of the plan would be to create a guidance to be implemented over the next 10 years through the coordination of the work of elected officials, NYC Parks, City agencies, corporate, not-for-profit partnerships and the community to maintain our parks.

The plan would be used to provide guidance in determining visioning questions for design which could be used to discern research themes, inform policy frameworks to vet goals and principles with the community and stakeholders in order to generate plans based on mutually developed designs and review.

Since 2014 Central Harlem parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities have undergone a great deal of extensive renovations. We have been the beneficiary of programs such as The Community Partnership Initiative and Parks Without Borders in addition to NYC Parks capital projects through Community Board advocacy. The Community would like to preserve, protect and maintain these relatively recent investments as well as the integrity of our park network as a whole. As a long-time under-served community, CB 10 would benefit from the development of a Master Plan as a tool to retain the achieved equity and to promote further improvements as needed.

NYC Parks is finalizing a presentation to address the Community Board's request for CB 10 Parks Master Plan which will provide a detailed overview of parks projects in CB 10 since 2014; completed, pending completion or start and future projections. They have asked to be rescheduled for October or November.

Outcome: The Committee will reschedule the NYC Parks CB 10 Master Plan presentation for October or November.

c. CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY: DELACORTE AND GREAT HILL BATHROOMS - RESTORATIONS

The Delacorte Bathroom is located at 81 Central Park West, mid-park at 80th Street on the southwest corner of the great lawn. The Central Park Conservancy's (CPC) project to reconstruct the Delacorte public restroom and improve accessibility in the surrounding area is in conjunction with the Public Theater's reconstruction of the Delacorte theater (slated to start construction this fall 2023). CPC will be reconstructing the public restroom, which serves as the theater's primary restroom facility, and the network of paths in the associated section of the park to create multiple accessible routes to the theater and restroom. By adjusting grades on these paths to comply with ADA accessibility standards, CPC will also improve accessibility to other park locations and facilities, including the Great Lawn, Swedish Cottage, and Shakespeare Garden. Although accessibility is the primary objective, the project will also serve to repair, replace and upgrade park infrastructure in conjunction with regrading and repaving paths as is typical for a park landscape restoration project. The Public Theater's design consultants, Ennead and Li Saltzman Architects, will be completing the design work for the restroom reconstruction and CPC will bid out and oversee the construction.

The project goals include: restoration of the building's exterior consistent with the historic design, update of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems to reduce the carbon footprint of the building, improvement of the restroom accessibility to meet jurisdictional requirements and best practices and addition of stalls in the women's room by reconfiguring interior partitions. Site accessibility improvements will create multiple accessible routes to the theater and public restroom facility from West Park Drive and the West 81st Street park entrance, while improving accessibility to adjacent park locations and facilities including the Great Lawn, Swedish Cottage, and Shakespeare Garden. The scope of work includes selective replacement and repairs to the slate roof, replacement of the gutter system, restoration of the exterior masonry, including cleaning, repointing, and replacement of lost or damaged elements, Structural repairs, replacement of windows and doors based on historic photographs, reconfiguration of the building interior, including removal of the attendants' rooms and the non-original service entrance and stair on the east side to accommodate an increase in the fixture count for women, which are consistently stretched beyond capacity during performances at the Delacorte Theater, full replacement of interior fixtures, finishes, and lighting building systems, new mechanical (heating and ventilation), electrical, and plumbing systems, new life safety system as required by code. Site Accessibility Improvements, regrading and repaving of paths, ADA accessibility ramps and handrails in required locations, repair, replace, and upgrade park infrastructure in conjunction with regrading and repaving paths.

The Great Hill Bathroom is located on the West Side between 94th and 96th Streets near the West Drive. The area along Central Park West between 103rd and 104th Streets is a spot of special significance in that it was the site of the Bogardus House, a farmstead that served as Olmsted's home during the Park's construction and the spot where he was married in 1859. From the Park's early days, the Great Hill was conceived as a site for family outings. WHEREAS In 1909, wooden steps that had been added to provide access to the Great Hill from the 106th Street entrance were removed and replaced with the more rustic path and stone staircase that now exist. The Project Goals include: restoration of the building's exterior consistent with the historic design, update the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems to minimize the carbon footprint while introducing electric heating to make the building a year

round facility, improvement of the restroom accessibility to meet jurisdictional requirements and best practices, creation of accessible routes to the restroom facilities and adjacent park locations. The Scope of Work includes: selective replacement and repairs to the slate roof, restoration of the exterior masonry, including cleaning and repointing, replacement of windows and doors based on historic drawings, repair of the original drinking fountain, reconfiguration of interior walls to accommodate an accessible stall in each restroom; addition of all new finishes, fixtures and fittings and accessories, upgrade interior lighting to LED, installation of new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, replacement of existing granite blocks with ADA-accessible blocks, creation of accessible landings at each restroom entrance, creation of a slope up from existing loop trail to restroom entrance landings to create accessible route and pitching of walkways away from building to achieve positive drainage.

CPC has met with two other Boards prior to meeting with CB10. There has been no opposition voiced to the projects. Proposals from contractors will be requested during the winter for both restoration projects. The Delacorte project is expected to be started in Spring 2024 and completed by 2025 to be in alignment with the reopening of the Delacorte Theatre. The Great Hill bathroom is a smaller project which should take about 9 months with a targeted start in spring 2024 and completion by fall 2024.

Outcome: In the absence of a quorum no vote was taken, however, the sentiment of the Committee was to move the proposed resolution on to the Executive Committee.

d. DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT

The Committee and Community reviewed the Parks and Recreation narrative, capital and expense budget requests submitted for FY'24 and assessed requests that were funded and those which were not, as well discussed future projects with the Community. Renovations have been requested for upgrades to the tennis courts in Fred Johnson Park and addition of 2 park attendee staffing. The Courtney Callendar Playground comfort station will be re-submitted.

Outcome: The Committee will continue to garner Community feedback and develop and review a final statement for the Parks and Recreation submission.

e. HARLEM JUNIOR TENNIS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

HJTEP withdrew their request for support of their project as they explore more viable options. The Harlem Tennis Community provided overwhelming opposition to the project in the form of e-mails, phone calls, letters and a 900 signature petition. The Community is concerned about possible privatization of the park and its tennis amenities which is a public facility with an established and long term usage by Community residents. HJTEP currently operates in the 369th Harlem Armory's state-of-the-art indoor tennis stadium. The Armory's renovation was funded by a HUD \$1.8 million Community Development Block Grant, \$1.25 million in seized assets from drug trafficking convictions (New York Attorney General's Office), \$1.2 million each from New York State and New York City, a \$500,000 City Empowerment Zone grant, as well as contributions from private sources. The upgraded facility opened in 2006. HJTEP, Harlem Children's Zone and members of "The Jungle" tennis community share a rich and extensive shared history with the 369th Armory facility around tennis programming for the Central Harlem community. The Committee has encouraged continued dialogue to work towards common multi-generational solutions to challenges to Harlem tennis and to support the expansion of the HJTEP youth program at an alternative site.

The Community would like the NYC Parks' information on the Fred Johnson RFP for Tennis Court Instruction permit bidding to be made available so that other groups can participate. HJTEP is the holder of an Instructional permit at Fred Johnson Playground tennis court. A permit is needed to use an outdoor NYC Parks' court from the first Saturday in April to the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Outcome: HJTEP, "The Jungle" and Harlem Children's Zone have agreed to work collaboratively to support and foster the Harlem tennis community. The Committee has offered to facilitate any future discussions.

III. Voting - The meeting did not have quorum. The sentiment of the Committee Members in attendance was to forward the following voting items to the Executive Committee:

- a. Reconstruction of the concession and addition of pergola structure at Mineral Springs in Central Park
- b. Central Park Conservancy: Delacorte Bathroom Restoration
- c. Central Park Conservancy: Great Hill Bathroom Restoration

IV. Discussions

- a. **CB 10 Park Updates**
 - i. **Harlem River Park** - No update at this time - dates for community meeting with NY Economic Development Corporation regarding waterfront still pending.
 - ii. **Harlem Historic Park/ Jackie Robinson Park Update** - Jana LaSorte is no longer the Administrator and has moved on to become Director at Highbridge Park. The Administrator position for Harlem Historic Parks is currently vacant.
 - iii. **Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy Updates** - No update at this time.
 - iv. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - NYC Parks will provide the Community Board with an extensive update.
 - v. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Peripheral lights have been out - Parks will address.
 - vi. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - No update at this time. DOT has not installed safety bollards.
 - vii. **Harlem River Park** - NYC EDC will be scheduling charrettes to garner community input with respect to project completion and programming in the CB 10 portion towards the end of 2023.
 - viii. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - No update at this time.
 - ix. **William McCray Playground** - - Project is in procurement phase.
 - x. **Renaissance Playground** - No update at this time.
 - xi. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - Comfort station reconstruction still pending to become a NYC Parks capital project. Community advocacy is ongoing.
 - xii. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - No update at this time.
 - xiii. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Exposed toxic chemical from cable repair treatment clean up will be addressed by NYC Parks immediately. Two park attendees

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

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

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

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

xvii. Hancock Square - No update at this time.

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

V. Old Business

VI. New Business - None

VII. Announcements

- a. Assemblyman Al Taylor will be hosting a “Back To School Family Night Skate Event on Thursday, September 21st from 6 to 9 pm at the Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park - 679 Riverside Drive. The event will feature DJ Reverened Jeff Crenshaw - The event is open to all Houses of Faith & The Community! Only 250 slots!! RSVP: marshay@altaylorfornyc.org or 646-453-6776
- b. 44th Annual GreenThumb Harvest Fair - Saturday September 23, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the El Jardin del Paraiso, 710 E. Fifth Street - Join GreenThumb community gardeners in celebrating the start of fall with workshops, live entertainment, healthy cooking, and more! Our 44th Annual GreenThumb Harvest Fair is presented with support from Loisada United Neighborhood Garden (LUNGS). [Listen to a promo on WNYC.](#)
- c. Carrie McCracken TRUCE Garden on West 145th St. & St. Nicholas Avenue and Elizabeth Langley Memorial Garden on 121-123 West 137th Street are actively looking for members- Please contact: Cynthia Guerra/email cynthia.guerra@parks.nyc.gov or phone 212-602-5335

VIII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

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