



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

Shatic Mitchell
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11th 2023, 6:30 pm

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. Elvin Garcia, Hon. Barbara Nelson, Hon. Jaran Manzanet, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi, Hon. Dana Points, Hon. Derek Perkinson and Hon. Verna Diggs.

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Shamier Settle and Hon. Nathan Quist

Board Members Present: Hon. Marquis Harrison, CB 10 Board Chair, and Hon. Shawn Brannon (Board Member)

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Associate (Community Associate) and Miguel Walters (Community Associate)?

Guests in attendance: Chauncey Parker (NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Community Partnerships), Alberto Roldan (Government & Community Relations, MTA New York City Transit), Dave Williams (District Manager, NYC Parks), Sonya Simmons (President, Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Louis Bailey (Manager of Membership & Organizing - WE ACT for Environmental Justice), Jessica Elliot (Chair, Parks and Open Spaces Committee - Manhattan CB 11), Zakiyah DeGraffe Nicholson (Director, Hansborough Recreation Center), Bliss Griffin (Founder, Jackie's Home Run Dolina Duzant (Malcolm X Beautification), Abdoulaye Coulibaly (FDA Student), Derek Martinez (FDA Student), Jannyel Diaz (FDA Student), K. Harden (FDA Student), Alejandro Iona (FDA Student), Maria Ngom (FDA Student), Natalie (FDA Student), Rayaa Smith (FDA Student), Christin Nunez, Grace Muset, iPhone, Lavar White, Ivy Columba, Jackie's HomeRun (JHR), Minah (JHR), Jill McIntosh (JHR), Joanne Renee Harris (JHR), Kristen, Anthony (JHR), Brian, Lavar, Maria Porto (JHR), Millicent Reddick, Ryan Nadine, Sidiki's iPhone, Peg Guillon, Raul Hernandez (JHR), Vanessa Potter Pool (JHR) and Yvette.

AGENDA

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Discussions

- a. **NYC Coordination With NYC Parks Capital Projects in CB 10 - Brigadier General Charles Young Playground - (Alberto Roldan - Government & Community**

Relations, MTA New York City Transit) and Chauncey Parker (NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Community Partnerships)

Six, approximately, 90 year old abandoned gas tanks were found under the baseball field. A decision is being made as to whether the tanks should be removed or covered over with concrete. Safety and the protection of the environment will be the determining factor. MTA will be installing an elevator at the 148th Street subway station. Out of 42 stations with ADA compliant elevators, only 7 are in Harlem. The MTA project will not impact the Brigadier General Charles Young Playground reconstruction projects. Renderings for the ball field and peripheral upgrades will be presented to the Committee in March. NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYC EDC) Esplanade Project in CB 10 Update - Harlem River Park - Fernando Ortiz (Upper Manhattan & Bronx Borough Director) NYC EDC will provide a full update presentation at the February P&R meeting, detailing upgrades to the waterfront esplanade in the CB 10 area of the Harlem River Park. Jessica Elliot, Committee Chair for Community Board 11's Parks and Open Space Committee participated in the discussion. Harlem River Park is shared by CB 10 and 11. The CB 10 greenway portion of the site is still pending completion.

a. Jackie Robinson _ Harlem Historic Parks (HHP) (Jana LaSorte HHP Administrator)

District Manager Dave Williams provided a report in Administrator LaSorte's absence. Please see park update listing below.

i. Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy - Sonya Simmons (Chair, Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy)

The Conservancy is in support of the dog run and the pool to pool/ice skating rink conversion. The Christmas tree lighting Ceremony took place without a lighted tree due to technical difficulty, however the event was successful and replete with caroling, toy give-aways, cookies and hot chocolate and was well attended.

b. Hansborough Recreation Center (HRC) - (Zakiyah DeGraffe, Director, HRC)

The capital projects phase for bid of procurement is underway and is scheduled for a January 2023 closing date. The bid for procurement process. Up to 18 months of construction will proceed after ending of procurement phase. Updates on permit from the Department of Buildings and approval for procurement will be provided in January. HRC will host a Jazz concert on Friday, February 10th. A silent disco party will be held Friday February 17th with a theme of 80's vs. 90's. New program sessions are beginning and registration is open. The Junior Knicks Clinic & Tournament is co-ed and will meet Monday thru Friday during after school hours and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm with groups organized as: 17 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under and 10 & under. The program is membership-based and will run from January to March. The Saturday Night Lights program will meet from 4 to 8 pm and is encouraging youth drop-outs to return to school. New 2023 Yoga program will begin. Ms. DeGraffe will send flyer to the Board for e-blast with program information.

Honeys and Bears members have won national awards for their stellar swim team athletics. They are currently holding their practice sessions in East Harlem at 1199 Plaza's recreation

facility, however, they are challenged with respect to transportation and access fees and are in need of fiscal support..

c. CB 10 Park Updates - David Williams, Parks Manager/District 10 & 11 - NYC Parks)

- i. **Hansborough Recreation Center - (Please see entry above)**
- i. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Boring samples were acquired Dec. 19th - 23rd - drainage system will be replaced with state of the art equipment. The issue with Christmas tree lighting was corrected just before Christmas
- i. **Harlem River Park** - District Manager Williams met with developers to assess state of water source infrastructure for the park.
- ii. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - designated a Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project - Boring was started in 1/10/23 to begin phase 1 of the capital project. It will take 4 weeks to receive the test results.
- iii. **William McCray Playground** - Issue of dog droppings as reported by St. Mark the Evangelist School was addressed and signage was posted. The site will be monitored.
- iv. **Renaissance Playground** - A Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project. - no further update.
- v. **Rucker Park** - Junior Knicks Clinic program will run from January through March.
- vi. **Jackie Robinson Park** - Brown-out shortages identified as cause of issues with Christmas tree lighting. Problem was never corrected. **(Please see entry above).**
- vii. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - After visit from NYC Parks Chief of Operations - northwest corner of playground determined to have suitable electrical and water sourcing to accommodate the installation of a comfort station. This corner of the park has been recommended as the site for the comfort station installation.
- viii. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - Park has remained clear of vagrancy.
- ix. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Comfort Station Reconstruction Project is on-track for completion by Spring of 2023.
- x. **Fred Samuel Playground** - Homeless population has diminished and persons are cooperating when asked to move.
 1. **Harlem Lane Program (Percy E. Sutton Playground)** - renovation delayed until Spring 2023 due to problematic water drainage into Harlem River. Retaining wall was tested on November 19th at Harlem River Houses at E. 158th Street, to ascertain that it is not being compromised. - Project back on track.
- xi. **Langston Hughes Playground** - Basketball court naming request still pending.
- xii. **Hancock Square** - no update at this time.
- xiii. **ACP, Jr. Malls** - no update at this time.

Pesticide spraying has resumed and rodent baiting is ongoing in CB 10 parks - signage has been posted. Leaf cleanup is ongoing throughout the District 9 park sector.

I. Presentations

a. Community Land Trust - Gregory Baggett (A. Philip Randolph Neighborhood Alliance)

Mr. Baggett requested to reschedule for March or April due to a scheduling conflict.

b. Jackie's Home Run (JHR) - Proposal for Dog Park and Off-leash Hours in Jackie Robinson Park

The JHR neighborhood pet owner's advocacy group is strongly recommending that a split Dog Run; one for large dogs and the other for small dogs, be installed in Jackie Robinson Park at the location of the northeast corner of 155th Street and Bradhurst Avenue. The location has been vetted by NYC Parks and the Jackie Robinson Park neighborhood organization of dog owners. The proposed Dog Run would be designed to serve the neighborhood through increased safety and cleanliness while promoting greater Community engagement. The group is requesting a Letter of Support.

Jackie's Home Run advised that a significant increase in the neighborhood dog population since the advent of the COVID-19 Pandemic warrants a need to provide safe, healthy alternatives to exercise dogs, promote canine socialization and mitigate incidents of aggression.

The Committee advised JHR to return with documentation substantiating the support of the surrounding Community after their presentation at the September Committee meeting. The organization, through their diligence, secured letters of support from the Board of the Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy, District 9 City Councilwoman Kristen Richardson Jordan as well as a 400 signature petition from the Community. The Harlem Historic Park Administration is also in support of the installation.

The JHR presentation detailed how a Jackie Robinson Park Dog Run would advance park cleanliness, encourage greater sense of community cohesion and park stewardship, in addition to responsible dog ownership. The closest dog run is not within reasonable walking distance and not readily accessible. Jackie Robinson Park currently does not offer off-leash hours or a dog run. A person who owns or controls a dog may not allow it to be in any public place or in any open or unfenced field abutting a public place, unless the dog is effectively restrained by a leash or chain no more than six feet long, per New York City Health Code §161.05. A violation can result in a fine of Fine: \$200–\$400.

Outcome: The Committee's sentiment was in support of the project.

II. Voting - Voting by Voice Vote

- i. Motion made by Hon. Dana Points and seconded by Hon. Barbara Nelson.

Motion: To Support The Letter of Support For The Installation of A Dog Run in Jackie Robinson Park With Amendments to insert the proposed site location, dog run structure and supporting documentation

Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Elvin Garcia - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes, Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Points - yes, Hon. Jaran David Manzanet- yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes).

Outcome: Motion Passed

III. Old Business

- a. Exonerated Five Task Force Update - Monday, December 19th Unveiling of the “Gate of the Exonerated” Ceremony at 110th Street between Malcom X Boulevard and Fifth Avenue entrance to Central Park: marking a successful completion to the Committee’s work.
- b. Courtney Callendar Playground Comfort Station - NYC Parks did a site visit and found that water and electrical sources are intact and suitable for the installation of the comfort station.
- c. The feasibility of a Jackie Robinson Park Pool Conversion to Pool/Ice Skating Rink is being explored by NYC Parks.
- d. “All Ah We Is One” - The Bahamas 50th Year Independence Celebration Tour - the Executive Committee directed the group’s request to return to Committee for further vetting through documentation of support from the Bahamian Community.
- e. William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court Rename Request (inside of Langston Hughes Playground) - still pending
- f. CB 10 WiFi Forum & CB 10 Parks - Collaborative meeting to be scheduled for late December with Committee Chairs to discuss event.

IV. New Business - None

V. Announcements

- g. NAN Policy Forum scheduled for Monday, January 16th at NAN 145th Street Headquarters. Flyer will be sent to District Manager Shatic Mitchell.
- h. Friday, February 17th Silent Disco Dance Party - Hansborough Recreation Center, located at 35 West 134th Street. Event will feature an 80’s and 90’s theme. A lock to secure your belongings is required. No exceptions. Masks are strongly encouraged during all activities at recreation centers. Wash your hands before attending a program. Stay home if you are sick. Event is FREE and open to adults 18+ years and older.

VI. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Elvin Garcia and seconded by Hon. Verna Diggs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

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