



CICELY HARRIS
Chairperson

SHATIC MITCHELL
District Manager

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9th 2022, 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. Verna Diggs, Hon. Marcus Wilson, Hon. Dana Points, Hon. Terri Wisdom, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi and Hon. Derek Perkinson and Hon. Barbara Nelson

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Kevin Bitterman, Hon. Shamir Settle.

Board Members Present: CB 10 Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris, Hon. Donna Gill and Hon. Wilma Brown

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

Guests in attendance: Gaidi Finni (Director, San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts), David Williams (Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks), Jana LaSorte (Administrator, NYC Parks - Harlem Historic Parks), Zakiya DeGraff (Director, Hansborough Recreation Center), Sonya Simmons (Chair, Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Charlie Bass, Ellexicon, Abena Smith, Fred McNulty, Tefone Herring, Gregory Baggett, Luther Wynter, Jaime Baez, Matternich Klemens, Donna Gray and Iris G.

I. Presentations

- a. **“Say My Name” -Augmented Reality in Central Park - Gaidi Finni, Director, San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts (SDAAMFA)** - The virtual exhibit features 50 Pedestals with 4 photos on each side for a total of 200. The proposed project would run for a month in the Fall of 2022 or Spring of 2023 and be geo-located at the site of the current Seneca Village exhibit from West 82nd to West 89th Streets and at the northern end of the park near 110th Street. SDAAMFA is seeking to present and preserve the art of African Americans globally and to broaden the knowledge and understanding of the visual arts specifically by collecting, preserving and displaying works of art by and about African Americans; by creating and hosting quality traveling exhibitions; by collecting and preserving fine art and by developing and helping to foster an appreciation of art through meaningful public programs, symposia, and other educational programs.

The “Say their Names” Memorial is a nationwide, grassroots initiative to honor Black lives lost in the struggle against systemic racism. The memorial began in Portland, Oregon and is an outgrowth of the protests that began nationwide in 2020. The organization’s goal is to make sure that we never forget the victims and that we put a name to each face. The exhibit consists of 50 pedestals with 4 photos affixed to each for a total of 200 photos. The information for each photo is provided via QR Codes. Visitors will download a GPS based APP on their phone, point the camera to a specific location, and will be able to see a pedestal with the individual, their name, age and the circumstances of his or her death. The Augmented Reality allows one to experience the memorial without the physical structures actually being present. The geolocation tie in to Seneca Village will promote community engagement around social justice. Time Frame: to begin in Fall 2022 for a one-month duration (Community expressed that the exhibit should run for a longer time. Central Park was selected due to its flagship status and will promote national exposure for the project. The cost of the project is estimated at \$100,000 which will include development of the App.

Outcome: The Committee voted to support the project and will issue a letter of support.

- b. Jackie Robinson Day in Jackie Robinson Park- Jana LaSorte, Administrator, Harlem Historic Parks** - This one-day event scheduled for April 15th will be the inauguration of the first annual Jackie Robinson Day in Jackie Robinson Park. In the case of rain the event will be held in-doors at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center. The event is being done in partnership with the family of the renowned Jackie Robinson, Harlem Hockey League (HHL), HCCI, The Jackie Robinson Foundation, The Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy, The Madison Boys & Girls Club and The PAL. Activities will take place in and around the bandshell. Logistics for the day will include: community tabling, games, environmental arts exhibits, Boys & Girls park gardening, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Live entertainment will take place from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the bandshell. Susan Thomas, granddaughter of Jackie Robinson will be the keynote speaker at a bandshell live musical performance scheduled from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Baseball clinics will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and the movie “42” will be shown at 7:30 pm. Interactive activities will be held in the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center. The event will highlight the park, which is one of the showcase NYC “Parks Without Borders” while celebrating the legacy of Jackie Robinson.

Outcome: The Parks and Recreation Committee will provide tabling to apprise the Community of the Community Board 10’s Parks and Recreations resources and support.

- c. William McCray Playground Sinkhole Update** - Borings were made in the area of the basketball court to assess the quality of the soil. Contractors

determined that the site has an unsuitable fill which consists of debris left behind from the previous building which existed on the site and was demolished to make way for the new building. Additional confirmation on the site's condition is still pending. The entire assessment project can take 4 to 5 months. Results for the borings made in the area of the basketball court are pending. Parks has been asked to return to the Committee in April to provide updates.

Outcome: NYC Parks will return in April to provide additional information.

d. Partnership Opportunities with Trees New York - Nelson Villarrubia

Executive Director (Trees New York) - "Trees New York" provides community opportunities for tree planting. The organization is looking to identify locations in Community Board 10 with adjacent empty tree beds on local area blocks. The organization is also looking for volunteers. Trees of New York is also looking to identify young street trees that could use stewardship, especially near schools, parks, or other public spaces. They will arrange stewardship outings, and would like to partner with Community Board volunteers. Trees New York offers a Citizen Pruner Course with licensing. The organization also has a Young Urban Forester Internship and will share a flyer with the Board detailing the application process for registration in the program which usually begins in June. Trees New York's Young Urban Forester Internship is designed to encourage urban youth to enter environmental careers. The objective of the internship is to expose local area youth to a range of environmental career opportunities through education, hands-on stewardship, field trips and seminars with professionals. Work-based learning in which students learn technical, academic and employability skills critical to better employment outcomes for young and inexperienced workers. The interns will receive training in specific occupational skill sets related to environmental careers intended to broaden their employment skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving in a way that is not typically possible in the classroom. Past interns have made a visible and lasting impact in their communities. On average, the interns care for 600 street trees, transforming their neighborhoods as they develop the skills and commitment necessary to serve as effective stewards of the urban forest long after the program ends. The comprehensive curriculum includes urban forest conservation, restoration, and planning, air and water quality, invasive species, introduction to GIS and map making, soil science and tree care, biology, tree identification, and pruning. Interns encouraged to apply to college, learn how to navigate the application and selection process, and receive assistance with their application essays. As part of the internship, students research an environmental topic of their choosing and present their findings. The presentation prepares students for college-level research and the lessons on public speaking help them both professionally and academically. Schools interested in the program are asked to contact Trees New York at address: 100 Gold Street #3100 New York, NY 10038, phone: (718) 701-4463, or e-mail: info@treesny.org.

Outcome: The presentation was informational. Trees New York will provide a flyer for their internship program upon its availability.

II. Voting

a. Voting by Voice Vote

- i. The Committee voted unanimously to provide a letter in support. The Museum has reached out to NYC Parks and will contact Central Park Conservancy.

Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Derek Perkinson. **Motion: To Support “Say My Name” Augmented Reality in Central Park**

Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Points - yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes, Hon. Marcus Wilson - yes, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes, and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes).

Outcome: Motion Passed

III. Discussions

a. CB 10 Park Safety in COVID -19 and Park Updates

Effective March 7, 2022, proof of vaccination, temperature checks, and health screenings are no longer required to enter recreation centers and nature centers. Masks are strongly encouraged. Some events being held in parks by outside groups may have additional safety measures. Before attending, please check with the organizing group to confirm. At this time, certain concessions remain closed, including indoor tennis facilities, and others. Stables remain operational for boarding and are now open to outdoor riding. At the discretion of each garden group, GreenThumb community gardens operating on NYC Parks property may open to licensed garden members as well as to members of the general public. Gardens are not required to host public open hours. As NYC Parks facilities re-open, patrons are asked to continue to take precautions and should wash hands frequently wipe down equipment, cover their coughs and sneezes, do not touch your face, and stay home if feeling sick.

b. CB 10 Parks - Updates - David Williams, Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks

- i. **The Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Dog owners not curbing dogs along 144th Street. Three dog post dispensers. Community is asking for installation of signage. Paint is peeling from newly refurbished basketball court on 145th Street and will be repainted.
- ii. **Harlem River Park** - update pending

- iii. **St. Nicholas Playground South** - Cars have been illegally parking on the sidewalk in between the trees. Parks installed no parking signs in the area. Community advised that enforcement of the signage is needed. Parks will also speak with management of businesses to encourage employees not to park on the sidewalk.
- iv. **William McCray Playground** - Parks conducted rodent extermination. NYC Parks held a virtual charette on Jan. 27th, which was very productive, well-attended and generated a robust dialogue. Community concerns and recommendations for the parks' design were garnered for incorporation into reconstruction plans. NYC Parks will come to Committee in May with design plans for review and support.
- v. **Jackie Robinson Park** - Two ballfields in need of upgrades. Support is being sought from Major Baseball League. Ascertaining resources for upkeep and programming for the park must be ongoing. Homeless encampments removed. Poop dispensers need to be installed near children's playground area. Holes in fencing need to be repaired near handball court, baseball field, bandshell area and along Bradhurst Avenue. Signage is needed at park entrance at 145th Street.
- vi. **Renaissance Playground** - update pending
- vii. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - update pending
- viii. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - Installation of bollards by DOT still pending. CB10 and DOT did walkthrough of area to assess the issues.
- ix. **Hansborough Recreation Center (HRC)**- The mask mandate has been lifted - patrons are no longer required to show proof of vaccination or have temperature screenings. It is strongly recommended to wear masks indoors. Seniors have strong concerns about mandate being lifted. Dividers will be maintained at the front desk. Staff is required to wear masks. Center is still providing wipes to cleanse exercise equipment between usage and mask offerings. Swing Dancing will be held on Saturday 3/12 at 4 pm. The Harlem Swing Dance Society will be hosting its 96th Anniversary Lindy Hop Event at HRC (the event is usually held at the Pelham Fritz Center which is currently closed). The event will feature the history of swing dance and swing dance instruction.

Youth Summer Camp will run from July 6th through August 19th.

Registration will begin Monday 3/21. 8:00 am - 6:00 pm is \$575 and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm is \$500. Information regarding NYC Parks Children

Summer Camps can be found on NYC Parks website:

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/phpdig/index.php?sc=sitesearch&q=Children+summer+camps&submit=Search&googleClientId=1769964663.1649268742>

Women's History Month March 26th event: "She's On Point - Girls and Women in Sports" - arts and crafts and a variety of activities to be held at Thomas Jefferson Park. Flyers will be made available in advance of

annual membership promotion. The Harlem Fitness-Go program will be introduced to individual parks.

The Honeys and Bears are utilizing the St. Mary's pool facility located in the Bronx for their synchronized swimming program during the interim of the pool closure at Hansborough.

I. Old Business

- a. **William McCray Playground** - A charette was held on Jan. 27th. The virtual meeting was well-attended and generated a robust dialogue around community and stakeholder concerns with respect to design plan aspects.
- b. **Spring 2022 Parks and Recreation Committee Community Outreach Event**
A date is not available at this time due to the uptick in Omnicron variant of COVID-19. Upon determination of a date, if the event is feasible, a coordinator will be assigned.
- a. **Exonerated Five Subcommittee** - Wording for plaque for Central Park gateway being finalized.
- b. **William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court Rename Request** - NYC Parks is awaiting any new designated procedures for park re-namings generated by the newly appointed Parks Commissioner Susan Donoghue.

II. New Business - None

III. Announcements

- c. First annual Jackie Robinson Day Event at Jackie Robinson Park scheduled for April 15th
- d. Contact "Trees New York" at phone: (718) 701-4463, or e-mail: info@treesny.org
- e. Harlem Little League Season Opening in Marcus Garvey Park April 2nd

IV. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Derek Perkinson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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