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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11th 2022, 6:30 pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:36 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, Hon. Barbara Nelson and Hon. Derek Perkinson

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Shamir Settle.

Board Members Present: Hon. Wilma Brown Phillips and Hon. Donald Boyce

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

Guests in attendance: Mikhail Priyev (Architectural Designer, NYC Parks), Marlisa Wise (Design Director - Citywide Services - Capital Projects, NYC Parks), David Williams (Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks), Lane Addonizio (Sr. Vice President of Planning, Central Park Conservancy), Gabby Chinae (Project coordinator - Planning, Design & Construction, Central Park Conservancy), Bob Ramsey (Central Park Conservancy), Denise Keaveney (Central Park Conservancy), Caledonia Jones (Manhattan Borough Historian, Emeritus), Marie Warsh (Historian, Central Park Conservancy), Sonya Simmons (Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Charlie Bass, Dawn Celestise, Abena Smith (Chair, Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Fred McNulty, C. Edwards, 1212***786, 1347***253 and Matternich Klemmens.

I. Presentations

- a. **NYC Parks - Brigadier General Charles Young Playground Comfort Station - WHEREAS Brigadier General Charles Young Playground (6.42 acres and Park ID:M186) is located on West 143rd, West 144th and West 145th Streets along Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard to the Harlem River Drive in the Borough of Manhattan in Community Board 10; and**

Brigadier General Charles Young Playground Comfort Station is located inside of Brigadier General Charles Young Playground. The project site is West 144th Street and Lenox Avenue/Malcolm X Boulevard. The playground, originally

opened September 1944, is named for Brigadier General Charles Young. Brig. Gen. Young was an American military hero, diplomat, and cartographer who became the third African American to graduate from West Point in 1884. The park was renamed from Colonel Charles Young Playground after the posthumous promotion of Charles Young to Brigadier General Charles Young in 2022. The goals of the capital project to reconstruct the 1800 sq. ft. facility are to:

- create an ADA and code compliant interior layout for the public bathrooms
- existing aging interior finishes, fixtures, plumbing and electrical system
- Reconstruct existing roof over existing concrete slab to make it watertight
- Renovate the field office, resolve programing needs with accessible and comfortable layout, upgrade HVAC system throughout
- Construct additional permanent exterior storage area at the north side of the building for M&O equipment

The exterior scope of work includes:

- Installation of a new roof above the existing concrete deck on the east and west elevations
- Installation of a new Split Systems in enclosed custom steel cages on east and west elevations
- Installation of new exterior light fixtures on the east and west elevations
- Installation of new DPR standard steel windows & security screens on east elevation
- Reconstruction of existing entrance to comply with DOB door clearances at ramp and provide single point of entrance to the building.
- Installation of new ADA compliant hollow metal door into a new door opening on the east elevation
- Installation of new masonry extension beyond existing concrete ramp with hand railing on the east elevation
- Installation of new exterior light fixture on west elevation
- Installation of new DPR standard steel window & security screen on the west elevation
- Removal of all paint from exterior of the building
- Repoint the existing masonry and apply anti-graffiti coating on west elevation
- Installation of a new reconstructed masonry patterned wall on the west elevation
- Installation of new hollow metal storage door in expanded opening on west elevation
- Installation of new masonry extension on west elevation
- Removal of existing chain link fence. Prepare area for new masonry construction for a new exterior storage space
- Installation of water fountain with refillable bottle feature

The interior scope of work includes:

- Upgrade of existing electrical and HVAC system throughout the building
- Replacement of existing plumbing fixtures and bathroom accessories in public men's and women's bathrooms

- Replacement of existing plumbing fixtures and bathroom accessories in shared staff bathrooms
- Removal of existing Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) walls for new external storage and mechanical room
- Installation of new interior walls for new shared pantry, new locker room and new entry vestibule
- Remove Existing Doors and frames, Prepare Opening for new single hollow metal door to comply with DOB door clearances at ramp

The schematic design for this project has been approved internally at NYC Parks and is now going through review by Community Board 10 and external regulatory agencies for comment and approval. The Public Design Commission is anticipated for June and the Department of Building submission is anticipated for August 2022.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of the project and voted to support the draft of a resolution.

b. Central Park Conservancy

- i. Public Review Project to Renovate the North Meadow Center in Central Park** This project is to renovate the North Meadow Center, located on the north side of the 97th Street Transverse Road, at the southern edge of the North Meadow in Central Park. The facility houses park operations and program staff along with public restrooms, and includes outdoor recreation courts and operational space. The project scope of work includes renovation of public facilities, including recreation courts and restrooms, park operations space and site work to support park operations. The site includes twelve handball courts, three junior level basketball courts, and one full size basketball court in an area that, until recently, was primarily used for vehicle parking except when cleared for tournaments/special events. An unmarked paved area adjacent to the handball courts, originally designated as horseshoe courts in the 1930s, is in poor condition. Pickleball, an increasingly popular activity in recent years, is often played on several of the handball courts. The proposed improvements include refurbished handball walls and repainted handball courts, including some painted for alternative use for pickleball (in consultation with the community that uses the courts). The unmarked asphalt area will be repaved and painted with two pickleball courts. The basketball courts will be repaved and repainted. Benches and chess and checkers tables will be replaced, and new bike racks and drinking fountains with bottle fillers installed. The public restrooms and recreation staff space will be relocated from the distant corners of the building to the central breezeway, where they will be more readily accessible to all users of the recreation courts and the adjacent ballfields, as well as the multipurpose room; and

The building houses park-based staff (operations and public programs), public restrooms, and a general-purpose room used for staff and volunteer training and community meetings and events. A comprehensive restoration / renovation is required to address the condition of building envelope and interior and reconfigure the interior space to better support park operations and public use. Currently the site is s the base for park operations activity—including electric cart charging and storage—on the west side of the building. Additionally, various utility structures and appurtenances are located on both the east and west sides of the building. The proposed improvements include formalization of space on either side of the building as charging stations for an expanded fleet of electric vehicles. Site and landscape improvements will serve to define, contain, and screen the operational activity. The North Meadow Center renovation project has a budget of \$20,000,000 and is fully funded. Central Park Conservancy and New York City Parks anticipate that construction on the North Meadow project will begin in September 2022 and be completed in 2023 or 2024 (twelve to eighteen months following the start date). Central Park Conservancy will be presenting to other surrounding Boards to Central Park.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of the project and voted to support the draft of a resolution.

- i. **Seneca Village Exhibit Program Updates & Juneteenth** - Central Park Conservancy will be hosting a Juneteenth event from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Rolling performances will be held over 5 sites in Seneca Village. Particulars of performances will be sent in follow-up next week. Registration will be by invitation to school and community groups. There is no update at this time on the Seneca Village permanent commemoration. CPC advises that information will be available at either the June or September meeting. The extended permit for the temporary exhibit which is currently in place will expire in late October.

Outcome: The presentation was informational. CPC will forward Juneteenth event details and flyer next week.

- ii. **History of Seneca Village - Williams Family 2022** - Williams family were the first residents of Seneca Village in 1825. Mr. Jones has accumulated substantial information on the Williams and Andrew Lyons families and is currently researching the Irish-African American diaspora and Seneca Village.

Outcome: The presentation was informational.

II. Voting - Voting by Voice Vote

- i. Motion made by Hon. Dana Points and seconded by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi. **Motion: To Support The Resolution To Renovate The North Meadow Center in Central Park**
Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes, Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Points - yes, Hon. Marcus Wilson - yes,- yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes).

Outcome: Motion Passed

- ii. Motion made by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi and seconded by Hon. Dana Points. **Motion: To Support The Resolution To Reconstruct The Brigadier General Charles Young Playground Comfort Station**
Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes, Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Points - yes, Hon. Marcus Wilson - yes,- yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes).

Outcome: Motion Passed

II. Discussions

a. Senior Celebration Community Outreach Event Collaboration with Senior Task Force -

- i. The Committee will suggest a Juneteenth theme and the Hansborough rooftop as an alternative site. Finalizing of plans with the Senior Task Force Committee will be completed offline via e-mail.

b. 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.

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

- i. **The Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Bleachers have been installed - repainting of court surface expected to be completed during the first week of June, in advance of the upcoming Tri-state tournament. Rat baiting was done by NYC Parks. There is a drainage issue in the area of the playground sprinkler. Illegal dumping of large amounts of raw food has been sighted.
- ii. **Rucker Park** - The changing table was replaced in the comfort station.
- iii. **Harlem River Park** - No update at this time.
- iv. **William McCray Playground** - NYC Parks is developing design plans to reconstruct the playground and will present at the June meeting. Rat baiting was done by NYC Parks.
- v. **Jackie Robinson Park** - Three additional dog poop bag dispensers installed. Horticulture projects are scheduled for May 21st and June 1st.
- vi. **Renaissance Playground** - The site is designated as an upcoming NYC Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project.
- vii. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - Parks Committee recommended as a NYC Parks CPI project for renovation of the comfort station - update pending.
- viii. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - update pending regarding bollard installation
- ix. **Hansborough Recreation Center (HRC)** - No update at this time.
- x. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - No update at this time.
- xi. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - No update at this time.
- xii. **Fred Samuel Playground** - No update at this time.
- xiii. **Harlem Lane Playground** - Comfort station project is scheduled to start on June 6th, 2022 through a mayoral construction plan.
- xiv. **Howard Bennett Playground** - No update at this time.
- xv. **Martin Luther King Playground** - No update at this time.
- xvi. **Langston Hughes Playground** - Renaming of basketball court to William Attmore Byrd Classic Court rename request - District Manager will have a response by June meeting. Committee requested that the comfort station door lock be repaired immediately.
- xvii. **St. Nicholas Playground South** - No update at this time.
- xviii. **Hancock Square** - The park received a major face-lift; painting of benches, fencing replaced, weeding and pruning and will be re-opened by week of May 16th.
- xix. **Lafayette Square** - Weeds were cut down.
- xx. **ACP Malls** - Flowers were planted.
- xxi. **Tot Lot** - Trees were pruned.
- xxii. **Dorrance Brook Square** - 54 bench slats were replaced.

I. Old Business

- a. First Annual Jackie Robinson Day in Jackie Robinson Park - The event was very successful. CB 10's First Vice Chair Marquis Harrison spoke on behalf of the Community Board. The prepared Parks and Recreation Committee brochures and survey sheet were not available for distribution to the public at the tabling,

however, the Survey Q&R code was available for scanning to complete the survey.

- b. Exonerated Five Subcommittee - Website content being developed with respect to vision, mission and topics. Meetings to be scheduled weekly or bi-weekly.
- c. William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court Rename Request - still pending
- d. CB 10 Master Plan - Letter of Request was submitted to Borough President Mark Levine's office
- e. CB 10 WiFi Forum & CB10 Parks - discussion pending

II. New Business - None

III. Announcements

- a. **Malcolm X Blvd Beautification Group, May 14th and May 21st Event 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. - Fred Samuel Playground @ 140th Street and Malcolm X Blvd.**
- b. **Central Harlem Compost Project Launch - Food Scraps and Volunteers Wanted!! - Abyssinian Tot Lot 130 W 139th Street - May 14th 3:00 pm**
- c. **Re-opening of the Fritz Pelham Recreation Center in CB 11.**
- d. **the Harlem Film Company (HFC) presents a theatrical red carpet premiere of The Patterson: Another Bronx Tale, held at the historic Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture - May 17th, 2022 7:30 to 10:00 pm.**

IV. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn unanimously by common consent.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

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