



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison

Chairperson

Minah Whyte

District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 8th 2024, 6:30 pm

Hon. Karen Horry, Chair

Meeting began at 6:45 pm 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. Tahanie Aboushi.

Committee Members in Attendance via Zoom: None

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Nathan Quist, Hon. Darryl Jenkins and Hon. Jaran Manzanet Hon. Philip Desgranges, Hon. Lyn Woodley and Hon. Derek Perkinson.

Committee Members Excused: None

Board Members Present: None

Board Members in Attendance via Zoom: None

District Office: Minah Whyte (District Manager) - via Zoom and Juanita Anderson (Community Assistant).

Guests in-person attendance: Adam Ganser (Executive Director NY4P), Daniel Abram (Project Manager: Research and Policy NY4P), Ms. Blackett (ML King Towers Senior Center), Zelma Brown (King Towers Resident).

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Dave Williams (NYC Parks District 10 and 11 Manager), Cynthia Guerrero (NYC Parks GreenThumb), Ron Myers, Robert McLean (Regional Director, NYC Parks), NYC Parks), Zakiyah DeGraffe (Director, Hansborough Recreation Center), Abena Smith, Tapashi Narine (Harlem Historic Parks Administrator), Sonya Simmons (Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Staci Marius (Assemblyman Al Taylor), Venice Grimes and Ibrahim Johan.

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Presentations

a. **CB 10 Master Plan - Chair Karen Horry** - NYC Parks representation to discuss the feasibility or mechanism for the plan is still pending. Central Harlem offers extensive recreational facilities, playgrounds, ballfields, sports courts, community gardens and greenways. Its more than 46 acres of parks include unique ecological and geological features, historic landscapes, and more than nine miles of waterfront. Community Board 10 is asking for a master plan that would:

- Connect parks to neighborhoods with green corridors and prominent gathering places.

- Create safe, well-maintained and accessible parks.
- Offer features and amenities that will serve the community's needs and diverse interests.
- Protect the natural environment including the geology, flora, wildlife and waterfront areas.
- Provide safe and convenient access to bicycle routes and watercraft for recreation and commuting.
- Advance design concepts that are relevant to the culture of the community.

Outcome: Parks representation is expected in June

b. Status of Community Gardens - Cynthia Guerrero

Established in 1978, NYC Parks GreenThumb is the nation's largest urban gardening program, sustaining over 550 community gardens and supporting thousands of volunteer gardeners throughout New York City. Manhattan CB 10 has 31 community gardens registered with Green Thumb. 26 of these gardens are NYC Parks jurisdiction only, one is under jurisdiction of NYC Parks and Manhattan Land Trust (MLT), one is solely under MLT and 3 are privately owned. The Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden, located at 225 West 122nd Street will be offering Mother's Day gift baskets filled with harvested produce.

Outcome: The Committee looks forward to working with Cynthia Guerra, Community Engagement Coordinator (212-602-5335 - cynthia.guerra@parks.nyc.gov). The Green Thumb presentation was informational. The Community can access GreenThumb at: [@GreenThumbNYC on Instagram](#), [@NYCGreenThumb on Twitter](#), [@GreenThumbNYC on Facebook](#), and [NYC Parks GreenThumb on YouTube](#) to find out about the latest workshops, events, and news at GreenThumb.

c. Expansion of 2021 Open Space Profiles - Need for Additional Parks and Open Spaces - New Yorkers For Parks (NY4P) - Daniel Abram and Adam Ganser

An independent citywide organization that advocates for quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers. Established over 100 years ago, NY4P champions equitable development distribution and maintenance of open spaces across NYC. The organization researches and develops the Open Space Profiles. NY4P is expanding the 2021 Open Space Profiles by highlighting the Community Board Districts with the least number of parks and open spaces, which includes CB 10. NY4P will provide a menu of solutions tailored to community needs, using the Community District Needs Statement as guidelines for suggested improvements. Proposed projects: (1) Expand Harlem river Park bikeway to close gap between 145th and 163rd Streets, (2) renovate or replace Jackie Robinson ballpark, (3) reconstructive conversion of Jackie Robinson Park Pool to include an ice rinks (4) upgrade restrooms in Fred Samuel Playground, (5) renovate or replace Renaissance Playground, (6) enhance Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. Malls. Actionable solutions include: (1) new park ideas, (2) better access to existing parks, (3) repairs and expansions to existing parks, (4) increase tree canopy, (5) schoolyards to playgrounds, (6) open streets and (7) support for Community Gardens

Maintenance being stepped up. Follow-up requested - Capital Needs Assessment 2025 (Jackie Robinson Ball Park - reconstruction of natural ball field, sinkholes and drainage issues, excavation, infield , seating etc.) Jackie Home Run (dog run - proposed location 155th Street side of bridge - Tapashi waiting to hear back from dog run group leader Kristin Rhea). Lasker Rink is under repair - youth groups or individuals have to incur costs to bus to Long Island and Queens. ACP Malls - botanist (native plant selections pesticides used are organic. Tree canopy - Bradhurst -114th Street and Morningside - forestry in existing parks - Forestry heats vulnerable neighborhoods - Parks Environment & Planning - trees

- Actionable ways that need can be addressed - schoolyards to playgrounds promotion - closed public in lieu of new structures - 6 on south side of District in CB 10 - Open Streets Program -

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Outcome: The Committee will send information regarding proposed Central Harlem ATV facility and pool conversion to pool/ice skating rink.

I.Voting - There were no voting items.

II.Discussions

- a. **Harlem River Park - Harlem River Park NYCEDC Greenway Update** - Work to begin Summer 2024 to include drill sampling and renovation of esplanade. The Committee is awaiting community input meeting scheduling.
- b. **Harlem Historic Park/ Jackie Robinson Park Update** - NYC Parks has done a capital needs assessment on the ball field - anticipated design is for 2025.
- c. **ACP Malls** - Native plantings - organic pesticides being used.
- d. **Community Gardens Update** - No outstanding issues at this time.
- e. **Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy Updates** - 7 Harlem Sculpture Park pieces will be on exhibit.....
- f. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - Hansborough Recreation Center has closed for renovations. Outdoor programming will be ongoing and will be held in Howard Bennet Playground and other park sites.

a. **CB 10 Park UpdatesDave Williams (NYC Parks District Manager)**

- i. **Howard Bennett Playground** - no update at this time
- ii. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Park lights are now operating and bathroom is open. The Third Annual Soccer Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 15th.
- iii. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - Protective bollards and speed bumps are still being requested for DOT installation in the park in the Transportation, Landmarks and Historic Preservation Committee. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - No update at this time.
- iv. **William McCray Playground** - . This is a CPI project. - Still in procurement phase. Cleanup and weed cutting undertaken by Parks.
- v. **Renaissance Playground** - Comfort station building being checked for plumbing. Park resident engineers discussing design plans
- vi. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - Comfort station reconstruction still pending to become a NYC Parks capital project. Community advocacy is ongoing.
- vii. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - Reconstruction project increased to \$16.7 million, will include expansion of park onto a replaced sidewalk, installation of play equipment, safety surface, fencing, seating and landscaping as well as removal of vertical parking spaces. A NYC Parks pre-scope meeting is scheduled.
- viii. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Comfort station open Park Associate in place. A Park Associate will be assigned to the tennis courts from May to October to supervise patrons and adherence to permit usage.
- ix. **Holcombe Rucker Park** - Committee Chair attended United Nations' "*World Leader Summit of Love and Peace for the Celebration of the 5th Day of Conscience*" on April 4th on behalf of the Rucker Project. The Rucker is being considered as an international model to deter drug usage.
- x. **Fred Samuel Playground** - 32nd Precinct discussing safety concerns in the park and possible remedies. Graffiti was removed and Park passed inspection.
- xi. **Harlem Lane Program (Percy E. Sutton Playground)** - Basketball courts completed

- xii. **Jackie Robinson Park** - two lights not working repair order has been placed - bathroom and sprinkler systems have been activated for the season.
- xiii. **Jackie Robinson Park Dog Run** - Discussion and site visit to proposed location being organized by Harlem Historic Park Administrator Tapashi Narine and with community stakeholders. Area under br
- xiv. **Langston Hughes Playground** - 32nd precinct assessing safety concerns
- xv. **Hancock Square - no update at this time**
- xvi. **ACP, Jr. Malls** - Planting work has been completed. Tulips and daffodils are blooming.

Comfort stations hours extended to 8:00 pm.

I. Old Business

- a. Night Lights for Rucker Tournament in Holcombe Rucker Park - Letter of Support - The **Rucker Tournament in Holcombe Rucker Park**, scheduled for June 17th through August 28th, 2024 is in need of operable lighting to ensure safe and optimal conditions for this legendary and world-renowned Harlem event. The annual basketball event has been held for the Community and the youth every summer since 1986. Operation is from 4 am to 9 pm. Last year NYC Parks removed the lights and replaced them with temporary lighting in order to facilitate the event. Parks has informed Robert Wells, CEO of 155 Entertainers Street-ball Tournament organization, that lighting will not be available for this year's event. This will prevent hosting of a safe event for the Community. The Committee reviewed a preliminary draft of a letter of support.
- b. Jackie Robinson Park Dog Run - Site walk through being planned - details pending.
- c. Rucker Park Walk of Fame Promenade and Statue of Holcombe Rucker in Rucker Park - Meeting with NYC Parks FD Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa scheduled for 5/13.
- d. Third Annual Soccer Festival - Community Outreach Event- Flyers being prepared.

I. New Business

- a. Holcombe Rucker Park, Harlem and the United Nations
- b. Community Golf Day

II. Announcements -

- a. **Third Annual Soccer Festival in Brigadier General Charles Young Playground - June 15th**

III. Adjournment - Motion: Hon. Tahanie Aboushi; Second Hon. Karen Horry. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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