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RESOLUTION_UPGRADE OF LAWN SPORTS FACILITIES IN CENTRAL PARK

WHEREAS The Bowling and Croquet Greens (Central Park Lawn Sports Center) consist of two fenced-in fields, each 15,000 sq.ft, built specifically for lawn bowling and croquet, located just to the north of Sheep Meadow in the Mineral Springs section. The fields are located at West 69th Street; and

WHEREAS 2026 will be the 100th anniversary of the lawn sports facility in Central Park. The New York Lawn Bowling Club (NYLBC) and the New York Croquet Club (NYCC) have initiated efforts to restore the greens and Lawn Sports Center; and

WHEREAS Lawn sports are games of skill and accuracy; not strength and, as such, can be played by persons of all ages and physical condition. For seniors, and other physically challenged persons, lawn sports offer an invaluable outlet for improved balance, coordination, and the enhanced well-being that comes from increased confidence and self-esteem, community connectedness and support. Seniors of 60+ years comprise nearly 30% of all residents in and around Central Park. The lawn sports facilities provide a rare haven where the City's elderly can engage outdoors in an active, socially-distanced setting; and

WHEREAS Lawn sports have a long history in NYC dating back to colonial times. In 1626 (the same year that Peter Minuet purchased Manhattan Island), Bowling Green was laid out in lower Manhattan. The green doubled as a marketplace and playground until 1733 when the City Council formally adopted a resolution returning the area to a bowling green; and

WHEREAS Bowls arrived in Central Park in 1926 with the founding of NYLBC and the construction of a new bowling green. A subsequent green was added in 1930; and

WHEREAS In 1987, the Parks Department effectuated an arrangement with the NYLBC and the NYCC to share the Lawn Sports Center facility; and

WHEREAS NYLBC and NYCC are not aware of any material upgrade to the Lawn Sports Center building since its construction and, despite attentive care from both clubs and the Conservancy, the green conditions have deteriorated over time and unfortunately are, for much of our season, not in suitable playing condition; and

WHEREAS NYLBC and NYCC have provided letters of support from the Achilles Foundation, Special Olympics, and from respective sports' world governing bodies who wish to host a pair of televised annual competitions in Central Park, to showcase the world's top players in a premier setting to raise awareness of lawn bowling sports in the US. Corporate sponsorship and media

coverage of these events can provide a generous source of recurring funds for the Parks Department and the Central Park Conservancy; and

WHEREAS NYLBC and NYCC have received the unanimous support of Community Boards 5 & 8; and

WHEREAS Projected estimated costs of a re-build in Central Park might range from \$1M to 1.5M; and

WHEREAS the New York Lawn Bowling Club met with the Parks and Recreation Committee on November 10th, 2021 to present the proposed need for the restoration of the Central Park playing green facility and Mineral Springs surroundings; and

WHEREAS NYLBC and NYCC regularly offer free lessons and community events and will provide information to CB 10 to promote interest for CB 10 residents; and

WHEREAS on December 8th, 2021 the Parks and Recreation Committee had quorum and **voted 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals**; to support the project; and

WHEREAS on December 29th, 2021 the Executive Committee had quorum and **voted 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals** to support the project ; and

WHEREAS on January 5th, 2022 the General Board had quorum and **voted 35 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals** to support the project ; and

WHEREAS Central Park Conservancy and NYC Parks will determine the merit of the project and respectively come before the Parks and Recreation Committee to present proposed design plans for the restoration of the Central Park playing green facility and Mineral Springs surroundings, which are not developed at this time; and

THEREFORE Now be it resolved that Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the NYLBC and NYCC request of NYC Parks and Central Park Conservancy to upgrade the Central Park lawn sports facilities and Mineral Springs surroundings through restoration.