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## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, January 12th 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. Derek Perkinson, Hon. Verna Diggs, Hon. Marcus Wilson, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi, Hon. Dana Points, Hon. Barbara Nelson, Hon. Shamier Settle and Hon. Terri Wisdom

**Committee Members Absent:** Hon. Kevin Bitterman

**Board Members Present:** Hon. Wilma Brown

**District Office:** Shatic Mitchell (District Manager) and Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

**Guests in attendance:** Elizabeth Masella (NYC Parks/Sr. Public Art Coordinator of Arts in the Park), Michelle Bishop (Director of Landscape Architecture - Manhattan, Capital Projects - NYC Parks), Steve Simon (Manhattan Chief of Staff), David Williams (Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks), Jana LaSorte (Administrator, NYC Parks - Harlem Historic Parks), Ron Myers, Azure T., Julius Key (Malcolm X Improvement Association), Abena Smith, Antoine McLaurin, Tefone Herring, Rhonda McLean, Patrick Managan, Minah Whyte (Assemblyman Al Taylor), Ahmad Sarwary (Director, Jackie Robinson Recreation Center), Fatima Gory, Jaime Baez, Adiba Noredeen, Aisha Gory, Carlos and Gregg Rapport.

### **I. Presentations**

- a. **William McCray Playground Sinkhole Update** - The Community Parks Initiative (CPI) is an investment in neighborhood parks with the greatest needs. William McCray Playground has been designated as a CPI site. The funding has been added to the existing funding allocated by Borough President Brewer and Councilman Perkins for the sinkhole project. The renovations will include the center spray shower plaza and basketball court. A virtual community input session will be held on January 27th to garner community feedback and suggestions. Testing and borings for the sinkhole site were conducted on

Monday, January 10th and Tuesday, January 11th. NYC Parks is awaiting receipt of an assessment report and will share the report and return to the Committee in February to explain the report findings. Parks will send a flyer for the January 27th virtual charette which will include the meeting link. The contracting firm and CPI funding info is still pending.

**Outcome:** Parks will post signage to advise the community of the testing and boring work and will reach out to the principal of the St. Mark Evangelical School which is adjacent to the playground. NYC Parks will send the link and virtual meeting flyer for the January 27th design and planning meeting. Advanced Registration is required.

- b. Temporary Installation - Harlem Needle Arts in Colonel Charles Young Triangle - Presenter Elizabeth Masella and Michelle Bishop** - Indigenous Threads features the work of Oluwaseyi (Shayee) Awoyomi, a fifth-generation textile dyer from the Yoruba people of Nigeria. Through textile design, Oluwaseyi's installation tells the story of the origin of Iya Alaro ("Mother of Dyers") indigo dyers and their relationship to their community. Indigo dyed textile is known as Adire, which translates as (adi) "to tie" and (re) "to dye." The honor of Iya Alaro comes with great responsibility, overseeing the harvesting of the indigo plant, prepping the dye baths, composition of solvents, and organization of the community of women. Once the Adire is ready for market, the Iyaloja (the "Mother of the Market") is selected, an honor of Chieftaincy and obligation voted in by the fellow market women, nominated by the King, and/or politically chosen. The Adire textile is prepared for the Mother of the Market's coronation as she governs the women in the market. The aluminum panels are attached to the fence using clamps. The acrylic textile panels were installed in January 2022 using zip ties. This is the third installation by the organization.

Artist(s): Oluwaseyi (Shayee) Awoyomi Sponsoring Organization(s): HarlemNeedleArts

Title: Site: Dates: Material:

Dimensions:

Indigenous Threads

Colonel Charles Young Triangle, Manhattan

December 22, 2021 – December 15, 2022 (aluminum panels) UV-pigment aluminum dibond panels, industrial acrylic knitted panels with vinyl mesh backing

3 ft. high x 5 ft. wide (aluminum panels)

3 ft. high x 10 ft. long (acrylic panels)

The display has QR coding which visitors can use to obtain detailed information on the project.

**Outcome:** The informational presentation will be noted for the Committee record.

- c. **CB 10 Parks and Recreation Master Plan** - In follow-up to Committee members review of the Parks Master Plan for CB 12 ([https://www.nycgovparks.org/sub\\_your\\_park/vt\\_north\\_manhattan\\_parks/master\\_plan\\_pdfs/june2012/Purpose\\_Planning\\_Goals\\_and\\_Info\\_gathering.pdf](https://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/vt_north_manhattan_parks/master_plan_pdfs/june2012/Purpose_Planning_Goals_and_Info_gathering.pdf)) a proposed plan draft for CB 10 Master Plan Statement of Objectives and Goals was presented. The CB 12 plan was used as a template. Make a plan that can be implemented over the next 10 years by coordinating the efforts of elected officials, NYC Parks, City agencies, community, corporate and not-for-profit partnerships. The Conceptual Plan will be used to guide the next decade of park network resiliency and maintenance while capitalizing on the strength of CB 10 open spaces, resolution of problem areas, and facilitating a coordinated long-term effort between agencies, non- profit partners, elected officials and community groups.

**Outcome:** The Committee supported unanimously the Statement of Objectives and Goals for submission to NYC Parks to request development of a Master Plan for CB 10 Parks.

## II. Voting

### a. Voting by Voice Vote

- i. Motion made by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Tahanie Aboushi.

**Motion: To Support CB 10 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Statement of Objectives and Goals**

**Outcome:** Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 9 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, Hon. Shamier Settle - yes, Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes  
**Motion Passed**

## III. Discussions

### a. **Spring 2022 Parks and Recreation Committee Community Outreach Event**

The event will require advance registration. A confirmation date is pending. Flyers will be made available a month in advance. Committee has requested formation of a Committee focus group to coordinate the event.

### b. **CB 10 Park Safety in COVID -19 and Park Updates**

Park employees who have not been vaccinated must be tested every week in order to retain employment. All Park workers must wear masks - vaccinated park visitors can opt not to wear masks if not in a crowded area. All other precautions remain in place. As of May 19, New York State has implemented the CDC's Interim Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. Face coverings are still required to enter any municipal building, including bathrooms, regardless of vaccination status.

The Committee will request representation from the 28th and 32nd Precincts at the February meeting to discuss remedies to gun violence in CB 10 parks.

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

- i. The Colonel Charles Young Playground** - The bleachers for the main basketball court will be installed in February.
- ii. Courtney Callendar Playground** - One of three tree stumps has been removed on 5th Avenue and a new tree planted.
- iii. Fred Samuels Playground** - The boiler has been repaired and the comfort station is now heated and open.
- iv. Bill Bojangles Robinson Playground** - update pending
- v. Fred Johnson Playground** - Construction has not been started as yet. The old comfort station will be demolished and has a projected start time for spring 2022. Award of the contract is pending. Big-bellied garbage receptacles have been installed. a unit is needed for the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. side of the playground.
- vi. A. Philip Randolph Square** - Funding is pending.
- vii. Langston Hughes Playground** - The comfort station has been opened.
- viii. St. Nicholas Playground South** - The comfort station has been closed for the season and is being winterized and will re-open in the spring.
- ix. Harlem Lane** - update pending.
- x. William McCray Playground** - See above presentation.
- xi. Jackie Robinson Park** - Leaf removal was done as per the November meeting request. Holes in the fencing around the baseball field have been repaired. The southwest corner is still in need of repair. A program is needed to address issues with respect to pets and owner responsibility. Chairs, furniture and debris were cleared out of a homeless encampment located on the Edgecombe Avenue border of the park. The inner wall of the park from 155th to 145th Streets is a site of undesirable activities. The shrubs were sheared to prevent further encampments.

Youth from The Boys and Girls Club volunteered to help in the park cleanup.

- xii. Renaissance Playground** - The Community Board submitted the site as a capital project budget priority request.
- xiii. Colonel Charles Young Triangle** - A letter of Recommendation was voted on unanimously by the full Board and will be forwarded to NYC Parks. A request for protective bollards will be addressed in the Transportation/Landmarks and Historic Preservation Committee.
- xiv. Rucker Park** - Bleachers have been installed in the Rucker and the court is now open.

- xv. **Hansborough Recreation Center** - Programming is available in the Recreation Center. NYC Parks advised that construction work on the renovation projects (Pool, elevator installation and Center interior) is now delayed and scheduled to begin in 2023. Steve Simon - Manhattan Chief of Staff to Deputy Commissioner Castro - could not explain the current delayed date. Mr. Simon will push to move date to 2022. The Committee expressed concern that the Honeys and Bears, Central Harlem's distinguished and renowned synchronized senior's swimming group will have been displaced for the last several years. Many of the group's members are in their 80's and 90's and are unable to regularly practice as their sport. The Committee will re-visit the matter in the February meeting.

District Manager Williams advised that he will install 7 to 10 rodent proof, big-belly, solar-powered garbage cans in CB 10 parks. Jackie Robinson Park and Colonel Charles Young Playgrounds were recommended.

**I. Old Business**

- a. **Exonerated Five Subcommittee** - As one of Borough President Gale Brewer's last initiatives the Manhattan Borough Board passed a Borough Board Resolution to support the Commemoration of the Exonerated Five in Central Park. The Borough Resolution is in addition to the Resolutions and Letter of Support provided by all 12 individual Manhattan Boards as well as letters of support from elected officials and organizations. The Task Force is in the process of developing content for a plaque to be sent to the Exonerated Five for their approval. There will be a series of events held throughout the week prior to the commemoration unveiling which is scheduled for the anniversary date of the exoneration.

**II. New Business**

**III. Announcements**

- a. 1/13/22 - Public Coffee and Chat with Senator Cordelle Cleare and Assemblyman Al Taylor - flyer will be sent to District Office

- IV. Adjournment** - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Marcus Wilson and seconded by Hon. Verna Diggs.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.**

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