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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13th 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, Hon. Barbara Nelson and Hon. Derek Perkinson

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Shamir Settle.

Board Members Present: CB 10 Board Chair Hon. Cicely Harris, Hon. Shawn Brannon and Dr. Maurice Franklin

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Community Assistant)

Guests in attendance: Carlos Martinez (Director, NYC Parks Green Thumb), Clayton Banks (CEO, Silicon Harlem), David Williams (Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 NYC Parks), Jana LaSorte (Administrator, NYC Parks - Harlem Historic Parks), Zakiya DeGraff (Director, Hansborough Recreation Center), Abena Smith (Chair, Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Fred McNulty, Tefone Herring, Cindy Worley (Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden), Haja Worley (Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden), Mickey Donohue, Emmanuel, Patricia Sanchez, Robin Martin, Pinky Tuscadero, Dr. K. Samuels and Charlene Edwards

I. Presentations

- a. **NYC Parks Green Thumb - Director Carlos Martinez - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Watershed Infrastructure & CB 10 Community Gardens Update** - US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer joined by Councilmember Carlina Rivera and State Senator Brad Hoylman, along with gardeners and advocates, hailed the allocation of federal funding for the city's community gardens. The money was included in the recently passed \$50 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will go toward the city's 260 existing community gardens. On April 1st, Senator Schumer announced that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contains substantial funding for water management and would provide on-site water infrastructure to 260 community gardens under the jurisdiction of NYC Parks across the city. There are 31 GreenThumb Community Gardens in CB 10; 25 NYC Parks, 3 Privately-owned, 1 Manhattan

Land Trust (MLT), 1 joint jurisdiction (NYC Parks & MLT) and 1 NYCHA. 123rd Street Block Association Community Garden is the most recently formed CB 10 Green Thumb garden. 23 out of the 25 Parks gardens grow food. On average, gardens dedicate 43% of their space to cultivate vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Three out of the thirty gardens have on-site water infrastructure. Green Thumb held an annual Spring Supply Distribution on March 26th their annual Plant Distribution on May 7th. Green Thumb provides year round delivery of materials to garden sites; providing specialty garden items, garden supplies (lumber, soil, compost, woodchips and mulch) and plants (vegetables, flowers/herbs mix and Native plants mix). Gardeners should contact Simone Herbin, Outreach Coordinator for CB 10, at T:212-602-5335, F:212-602-5334 simone.herbin@parks.nyc.gov.

Outcome: The presentation was informational.

- b. Silicon Harlem - Clayton Banks, CEO - Broadband & CB 10 Parks -** Silicon Harlem is collaborating with NYC Mesh - a grass-roots low cost internet provider made up of a diverse group of volunteers dedicated to ending the digital divide and extending high-speed, reliable internet to all New Yorkers. Silicon Harlem explained the logistics and methodology involved in the set-up of internet in CB 10 parks. Free WI-Fi access in CB10 parks would help to bridge the digital divide which exists here. Many members of our community continue to be left behind because they don't have access to internet or computers in their homes. Internet access would provide great benefit with respect to disaster relief, as demonstrated during the pandemic when technology became a prevalent resource for communication; from students engaged in remote learning to business Zoom meetings, remote doctor visits, etc. The Committee has explored, over the past several years, the need for free, secure and reliable Wi-Fi service in CB10 parks and playgrounds that provides a sufficient bandwidth to accommodate the park traffic. NYC Mesh and Uni(wi)field WiFi met with the Transportation Historic Preservation & Landmarks Committee at the May meeting. The Economic Development, Technology and Communications Committee will be hosting a WiFi forum and the Parks & Recreation Committee will recommend to support through a component focused on the benefit and feasibility of free WiFi access in CB 10 parks.

Outcome: The Committee is in favor of supporting the Economic Development Committee through a collaborative component specific to broadband installation in CB 10 parks.

II. Voting - Voting by Voice Vote

- i.** The Committee voted unanimously to collaborate with the Economic Development Committee on CB 10 WiFi with emphasis on the parks aspect

Motion made by Hon. Derek Perkinson and seconded by Hon. Verna Diggs. **Motion: To Collaborate With Economic Development Committee WiFi Forum on WiFi in CB 10 Parks Aspect**

Vote: Quorum was present : Unanimous to support: 6 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, - yes, Hon. Terri Wisdom - yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes).

Hon. Tahanie Aboushi was not present for the vote due to Ramadan
Hon. Barbara Nelson was not present for the vote

Outcome: Motion Passed

II. Discussions

a. First Annual Jackie Robinson Day in Jackie Robinson Park

- i. Event Tabling, Survey & Brochure** - Brochure and Survey were prepared and sent to Committee members for review which will continue on via e-mail for any commentary or critique in advance of production of copies by the District Office for the April 15th event to be made available for tabling.

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** - Bleacher installation is pending after resurfacing of the court. Parks was advised that the basketball court, bleachers and lighting are needed to be ready to accommodate the June Tri-state tournament. - Timeline is needed for comfort station renovation, closure and alternative for temporary accommodations (NYC Parks will present plans in May meeting). - Dog owners must be deterred from utilizing soccer pitch and ball field for their dogs (signage and enforcement recommended). 311 database needs to be updated to include Brigadier General Charles Young Playground to enable

submission and processing of complaints. - Parks advised that water is not draining near sprinkler system in playground area causing stagnant water to accumulate.

ii. Rucker Park -

iii. Harlem River Park - comfort station construction in CB 11 portion at East 128th Street and Third Avenue Bridge - procurement completion date pending. The bid opening date has been extended by NYC Parks - delays attributable to COVID impact.

iv. William McCray Playground - NYC Parks is developing design plans to reconstruct the playground and will present possibly at May or June meeting.

v. Jackie Robinson Park - comfort station winterized and opened. Mud pit still pending pavement. - Successful First Annual Jackie Robinson Day Event held. Parks and Recreation Committee tabled and First Vice Chair Marquis Harrison spoke on behalf of CB 10 during guest speaker segment.

vi. Renaissance Playground - a CPI NYC Parks capital project

vii. Courtney Callendar Playground - Parks Committee recommended as a NYC Parks CPI project

viii. Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle - update pending regarding bollard installation

ix. Hansborough Recreation Center (HRC)- Renovation plans - The pool design base is 100% complete - The procurement phase will end June 3rd - An update will be provided in May. COVID protocols still in place

x. A. Philip Randolph Square - update pending

xi. Frederick Johnson Playground - new comfort station construction procurement 100% complete - construction to begin June 2022 with completion by December 2023.

xii. Fred Samuel Playground - update pending

xiii. Harlem Lane Playground - behind schedule on bathroom renovation

xiv. Howard Bennett Playground - update pending

xv. Martin Luther King Playground - update pending

xvi. Langston Hughes Playground - Renaming of basketball court to William Atmore Byrd Classic Court rename request - District Manager will have a response by May meeting

xvii. St. Nicholas Playground South - comfort station winterized and opened

I. Old Business

- a.** Exonerated Five Subcommittee - Wording for plaque for Central Park gateway being finalized.
- b.** CB 10 Master Plan - NYC Parks advises that funding must be secured from elected officials to finance the project.

II. New Business - None

III. Announcements

- a. Rucker Park - Space Jams New Legacy 4/22 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- b. Hansborough - Mother's Paint & Sip 5/6 - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
- c. NYC Street Games Borough-Wide Event 4/30 - 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm @ Thomas Jefferson Park
- d. Harlem Little League Visits Yankee Stadium :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgYJ9nmM5w0>

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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