



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

Shatic Mitchell
District Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES **Wednesday, March 8th 2023, 6:30 pm** **Hon. Karen Horry, Chair**

Meeting began at 6:32 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. Elvin Garcia, Hon. Barbara Nelson, Hon. Jaran Manzanet, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi, Hon. Dana Points and Hon. Derek Perkinson.

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Shamier Settle, Verna Diggs and Hon. Nathan Quist

Board Members Present: Hon. Marquis A. Harrison, CB 10 Board Chair, and Hon. Charles Johnson, CB 10 2nd Vice Chair

District Office: Jasmin Heatley (Community Associate)

Guests in attendance: Kyshia Smith (MBPO), Lindsay Schott (Million Trees), Hannah Emple (The Nature Conservancy), Alex Munoz (NYC Parks Green Thumb), Cynthia Guerra (NYC Parks Green Thumb), Cindy Worley (Project Harmony), Alexander Han (NYC Parks), Sonya Simmons (Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy), Dave Williams (NYC Parks Manager, Districts 10 & 11), Elijah (T.A.G. Youth), Gwendolyn Black, Jana LaSorte (Administrator, Harlem Historic Parks), Robert McLean (NYC Parks, Regional Director), Marcus Wilson, Millicent Reddick, The Community Initiatives, Elijah Soto, Nadir Hasan (Bahamas Event International), Mary Sweeting (Chair, Executive Board, Bahamian American Association), Reverend LeRoy Wethers (Harlem Honeys and Bears), Anderson Tornio, Amy (T.A.G. Youth), 1917****154, Ron Myers, Leslie (T.A.G. Youth), Darnel Mendoza's and Daniel Paterson

AGENDA

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Presentations

a. Million Trees Initiative - Nature Conservancy - Hannah Emple, Program Analyst, Cities, New York

MillionTreesNYC is a 132 PlaNYC citywide, public-private program with an

ambitious goal: to plant and care for one million new trees across the City's five boroughs over the next decade. By planting one million trees, New York City can increase its urban forest—our most valuable environmental asset made up of street trees, park trees, and trees on public, private and commercial land—by an astounding 20%, while achieving the many quality-of-life benefits that come with planting trees. The City of New York will plant 70% of trees in parks and other public spaces. The other 30% will come from private organizations, homeowners, and community organizations.

The overall goal and associated targets include:

- Preserve existing canopy across private and public lands, including limiting removal to prevent loss (except as appropriate for good management practice)
- Improve forest health and increase tree canopy through management and restoration
- Plant new trees and replace lost and removed trees with a specific focus on areas with high, underutilized potential for canopy including private property and areas with greatest potential to benefit from new canopy such as the most heat vulnerable parts of NYC

Urban Forest Benefits:

- Removes tons of pollutants from the air each year - improving air quality and lessening emergency room visits, lowers rates of chronic diseases and hospitalizations
- Stores millions of tons of carbon and annually sequesters thousands of tons of carbon for production of 3-fold tons of carbon dioxide for tree consumption
- Decreases air temperatures resulting in cooling of city streets and mitigating the urban heat island effect and extreme heat
- Reduces health stressors as shown by slower heartbeats, lowers blood pressure and relaxed brain patterns and promotes healing and contemplation
- Increases the cohesiveness of communities by promoting feelings of attachment to the geography and promotes an opportunity to experience nature
- Encourages children and adults to spend more time outdoors engaging in physical activity, therefore reducing childhood obesity rates and improving fitness
- Reduces storm water runoff by 69 million cubic feet per year, decreases the rate that runoff travels off surfaces (e.g., streets and sidewalks), and stabilizes soil by preventing erosion
- Provides habitat and refuge for a variety of wildlife and plant species and enables pollinators, seed dispensers, and other species to move throughout the region

Vision:

- A healthy, biodiverse, robust, accessible, well-understood and resilient urban forest that justly and equitably delivers its multiple benefits to all NYC residents
- Protect, maintain, use, monitor, understand, promote, and expand the New York City urban forest
- A diverse and inclusive coalition
- New York City expands its role as a leader in urban forestry

A survey will be required to assess what is needed and desired by the CB 10 local community.

NYC Trees are currently challenged by:

- Climate change
- Pests and pathogen
- Disparate management
- Lack of protection
- Lack coordinated planning and cohesive vision

Key Drivers:

- Human health and well-being
- Climate change adaptation
- Distribution of benefits to EJ communities
- Connection to the urban forest
- Coordination and collaboration
- Understanding of the NYC urban forest
- Citywide-scale
- Biophysical state of NYC trees and biodiversity

Interested residents can visit **ForestforAll.nyc** to: (1) learn more about the coalition, (2) download the *NYC Urban Forest Agenda*, (3) Follow @ForestforAllNYC on social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), and (4) Support Million More trees and endorse the NYC Urban Forest Agenda. For more information about Forest for All NYC contact: s.e.moncadaleiva@tnc.org

Outcome: The sentiment of the Committee is to garner community feedback and prepare a resolution in support of the project to be reviewed by the Committee and voted on at the April meeting.

- a. **CB 10 Gardens Update – Cindy Worley (Principal Gardener, Project Harmony), Alex Munoz (NYC Parks Green Thumb) and Cynthia Guerra (NYC Parks Green Thumb)**

Green Thumb will be providing a monthly newsletter to apprise the Community and gardeners of updates, resources and programming available through NYC Parks GreenThumb. The website is as follows:

<https://newsletters.nycgovparks.org/index.php?action=social&c=abfd7fc396174dc7a4b5db6552473e96.87287>

GreenThumb will contact the DYCD SYEP program to facilitate assignment of youth to CB 10 Community Gardens for summer employment. New membership is being encouraged for community gardens due to low participation. Help is presently needed for spring cleanup. McCracken Truce Garden is experiencing issues with rat epidemic and is remedying with a feral cat colony. The new Gardening Lease length has been changed to every ten years in lieu of every three years. Open garden day is scheduled for June 3rd and 4th. Gardens being

impacted by construction work. There is a large amount of excavation activity in area of 117th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue which is also generating a huge rat infestation. The composting project is going well. Bins are accessible through coding and use of a phone App. Wooden bins have been converted - black bag composting is also an option. Encroaching shade, debris and rodent infestation introduced by new building construction is impacting on the health of the gardens. Gardeners are opting to reconfigure raised beds - as one form of mitigation. Electric Lady Bug Garden is doing very well.

Outcome: NYC Parks GreenThumb newsletter will be sent to District Office which will provide current happenings at Green Thumb and updates on garden activities.

b. Richard Toussaint Commemoration in Harlem River Park

Presentation is still being developed. (Notes: Tom Lunke reached - Mrs. Toussaint contacted - Curtis Archer pending contact - original brochure for the project was obtained.)

Outcome: Presentation to be rescheduled for April meeting.

c. NYCFC 2nd Annual Soccer Festival – Discussion

Event proposed in proximity to Juneteenth in June or July. The event was held last year, but due to scheduling conflicts and short time frame did not have the expected youth turn-out. The Committee, in collaboration with NYCFC, The Third Rail and Black Players for Change envision a larger turnout with an earlier start for this year's event. The Third Rail is in the process of coordinating all participating parties to improve turnout in conjunction with Manhattan CB 10.

Outcome: The Third Rail will provide the Committee with possible dates for this year's event.

d. 40-Day Notice for RFP for the Renovation, Operation and Maintenance of the Central Park Tennis Center -Lindsay Schott (Project Manager, NYC Parks - Revenue Division)

NYC Parks presented on a 40-day not for Request for Proposals (RFP) for the renovation, operation, and maintenance of the Central Park Tennis Center.

In accordance with Section 1-13 of the Concessions Rules of the City of New York, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation intends to issue a significant RFP for the renovation, operation and maintenance of the Central Park Tennis Center including a tennis professional concession, pro shop concession and snack bar concession in Central Park.

III. Voting - There were no voting items.

IV. Discussions

a. CB 10 Park Updates

- i. **Harlem Historic Park/ Jackie Robinson Park Update** - Trail boards will be installed in park for posting of information about events and programming in the park. A dog run site has been identified at the north side of Macombs Dam Bridge - project is moving forward. Launch of the dog run is expected by Summer. . Repairs to mitigate the mudslick are still pending, a previously recommended concrete pour was determined to take too long. Repair of the mudslick will be made in the Spring. Extra volunteer support will be needed for the Jackie Robinson Day Festival. All partners from 2022 will be participating this year including Madison Boys & Girls Club, Jackie Robinson Museum, Harlem YMCA and Major League Baseball. The event, scheduled for April 15th will feature games and giveaways. Licensed food truck vendor suggestions for the day of the event are welcomed. Movie filming donations, per filming in the park, should be made to Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy.
- ii. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - *A report was pending at the time of the meeting; however the following is a subsequent response to a post-meeting follow-up inquiry to Community concerns provided by Hansborough Management on 4/4:* The elevator has been out of service, but a work order has been generated to get the issue resolved. NYC Parks contractor has come out to address the issue which resulted in the motherboard having to be taken out for repair. Reinstallation of the motherboard and elevator function is expected by the end of the first week in April. Replacement of the elevator is a component of the major capital project to renovate the pool and upgrade of the facility . Management reports that currently there are two fitness machines out of service due to improper use. A work order has been placed for both machines, including the chest press, to be serviced. Overall, Hansborough fitness equipment is operable and available for daily use. Staffing includes an on-site fitness director who oversees all maintenance issues as they arise.
- iii. **Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy Updates** - \$25,000 grant received from Green Fund which supported youth work with gardener on horticultural project at site of 145th Street through 146th along Edgecombe Avenue. A 147th Street homeless encampment cleanup has been ongoing throughout November into mid-February. The Conservancy has been collaborating with Marcus Garvey Park in shared programming. The Conservancy is collaborating with the Jackie's Home Run neighborhood group to promote increased youth involvement and park stewardship.
- iv. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - (The capital project remains on track).

- v. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - capital projects on track. Trees being graffitied with fraternity markings.
- vi. **Brigadier General Charles Young Triangle** - No update at this time.
- vii. **Harlem River Park** - NYC EDC will provide a more detailed presentation and will be scheduling charrettes to garner community input with respect to project completion and programming in the CB 10 portion
- viii. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - designated a Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project - A design process charrette was held as scheduled for February 23rd via Zoom at 6:00 pm. Parks will be present design plans to the Committee upon completion.
- ix. **William McCray Playground** - No update at this time.
- x. **Renaissance Playground** - A Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project. - Parks will be holding a charrette - date is to be determined.
- xi. **Rucker Park** - No update at this time.
- xii. **Courtney Callendar Playground** - No update at this time.
- xiii. **Philip Randolph Square** - A Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project. - Parks will be holding a charrette - date is to be determined.
- xiv. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Comfort Station Reconstruction Project is on-track for completion by Spring of 2023.
- xv. **Fred Samuel Playground** - no update at this time.
- xvi. **Harlem Lane Program (Percy E. Sutton Playground)** - no update at this time.
- xvii. **Langston Hughes Playground** - no update at this time.
- xviii. **Hancock Square** - \$5,000 allocation for renovation which will include painting of perimeter fence, installation of steps, planting (60% native and 40% exotic). Projected completion is by end of Fall 2023.
- xix. **ACP, Jr. Malls** - \$4,000 donated for planting and recruitment of volunteers. A \$10,000 grant will fund the planting of malls 123rd to 124th and 122nd to 123rd.

IV. Old Business

- a. NYC EDC Harlem River Park Charrettes dates pending
- b. The Bahamas “All Ah We Is One” 50th Year Independence Celebration Tour - Letter of Support was approved by full Board.
- c. CB 10 Parks Master Plan - still pending.
- d. Jackie Robinson Park Pool Conversion to Pool/Ice Skating Rink - formation of Task Force pending.
- e. Courtney Callendar Playground Comfort Station - funding to enable the capital project pending.
- f. William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court Rename Request (inside of Langston Hughes Playground) - still pending

V. New Business – None

VI. Announcements

- a. **GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference** - The [39th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference](#) will be in-person and is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st at [CUNY Graduate Center](#) in Manhattan (365 5th Ave., New York, NY 10016) to kick off the community gardening season in New York City. The theme for this full-day conference is *Learning from the Land: Bounties of Wisdom from Community Gardens*. All activities are free and open to the public. Register in advance at [GTGT2023.eventbrite.com](#). Walk-in registration and breakfast begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by the Opening Ceremony at 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m., with the first workshop session beginning at 10:30 a.m. For the full schedule of the day, please see a [digital version of the conference guide](#).
- b. **Register for Partnerships for Parks Volunteer Event It's My Park at Jackie Robinson Park** - Partnerships for Parks (PfP) is a public-private partnership of NYC Parks and City Parks Foundation (CPF) that supports and champions a diverse network of partners caring and advocating for neighborhood parks and green spaces. Date: 04/26/2023, Wednesday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at West 145th Street between Bradhurst and Edgecombe Avenues.
- c. **Central Park Tennis Center RFP**- In accordance with Section 1-13 of the Concession Rules of the City of New York, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation ("Parks") intends to issue a significant Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for the operation and maintenance of the Central Park Tennis Center, including a tennis professional concession, pro shop concession, and snack bar concession in Central Park, Manhattan. The RFP will provide for one (1) twenty-year term. No longer term will be considered. The concession will be operated pursuant to a license issued by Parks; no leasehold or other proprietary right will be offered. The concession has been determined not to be a major concession as defined in Chapter 7 of the Rules of the City Planning Commission. Please direct any questions you may have regarding the development of the scope of this RFP to Lindsay Schott, Project Manager, by phone at (212) 360-3405 or

via email at lindsay.schott@parks.nyc.gov. These comments must be made by Sunday, March 26th, 2023 to ensure consideration.

VII. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Chair, Hon. Karen Horry.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm

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