



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, February 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, Hon. Derek Perkinson and Hon. Verna Diggs.

Committee Members Absent: Hon. Shamier Settle 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 (Associate (Community Associate))

Guests in attendance: Tara Das (Sr. Project Manager, Government & Community Relations, NYC EDC), Lena Ferguson (NYC EDC), Alexis Taylor (NYC EDC) Malik McCullough (Vice Chair, Parks and Open Spaces Committee - Manhattan CB 11), Zakiyah DeGraffe Nicholson (Director, Hansborough Recreation Center), 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 CommunityInitiatives, 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. NYCEDC Harlem River Greenway Update and Harlem River Park Programming

NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYC EDC) Esplanade Project in CB 10 Update - Harlem River Park - Fernando Ortiz (Upper Manhattan & Bronx Borough Director). NYC EDC will provide a full update presentation at the February P&R meeting, detailing upgrades to the waterfront esplanade in the CB 10 area of the Harlem River Park. Malik McCollough, Committee Vice Chair for Community Board 11's Parks and Open Space Committee participated in the discussion. Harlem River Park is shared by CB 10 and 11. 84% of the park and greenway portion of the site is still pending completion. The distance of 1.2 miles from 145th Street through 163rd is being targeted. There is a lack of waterfront land and public access to the waterfront in this area due to Harlem River Drive, Esplanade Gardens Co-op property and MTA rail yard, requiring creative solutions to fill the gap. Opportunities to integrate the greenway with existing open spaces, including with the reconstruction of Percy E. Sutton Playground and to integrate resilient design. FEMA funding has been allocated for the capital project which is currently in the pre-design phase. Next steps are to issue a public RFP for a design team and begin the design and community engagement process. The Committee has requested a charrette format as employed by NYC Parks to garner community input.

a. Harlem Honeys and Bears Update

The famed Harlem Seniors' aquatic and fitness group as well as Harlem treasures features synchronized swimming performances. Displaced due to Hansborough Recreation Center renovations which are scheduled for completion by late 2024 or early 2025. The Honeys and Bears are currently practicing at the 1199 Plaza Recreation Center pool. They are planning an upcoming performance at the site and will reach out to the local Senior's Organization JASA. The group members, who range from 84 and up, are also looking for assistance with transportation and facility fees. Traveling outside of the local Central Harlem has been a challenge and participation has been impacted. Numbers have dwindled to 1/3 the original group due to transitioning and medical conditions. Regional Parks Director Robert McLean will discuss other in-door pool alternatives. The Honeys and Bears' schedule at 1199 Plaza is M,W,F 10am - 11am and T, Th 12pm - 2pm and have had their use of the facility extended through March 30th, 2023. The group formed in 1979 at Hansborough has recently been the recipient of national competitions awards.

b. "All Ah We Is One" - The Bahamas 50th Year Independence Celebration Tour - Letter of Support

Bahamas Events International LTD (BEI LTD) is proposing a one-day, free outdoor event in Central Park, as a part of their international "All ah We is One" tour. The focusing theme will be the July 4th -10th, 2023 Independence festivities in the Bahamas including Canada & the US. The festivities are scheduled before the Bahamas Independence 50th anniversary which will take place on July 10th, 2023. The New York City event will highlight, promote and educate thousands of New Yorkers and visitors about the Bahamas. The event is designed to be a heritage revue of the Bahamas experience without sand and sea celebrating the pre- and post-1973 Bahamas Independence. The event will be at no cost to participants. Event tickets will be free,

but will require pre-registration. There will be prizes and give-aways; a free Bahamas vacation for two is one of the prizes being offered.

I. Voting - Voting by Voice Vote

- i. Motion made by Hon. Dana Points and seconded by Hon. Barbara Nelson.
Motion: To Support The Letter of Support For The Bahamas 50th Year Independence Celebration Tour With Amendment to Include Documentation Substantiating Community Support
Vote: Quorum (8/10) was present : Unanimous to support: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals (Voice Vote: Hon. Elvin Garcia - yes, Hon. Barbara Nelson - yes, Hon. Karen Horry - yes, Hon. Dana Points - yes, Hon. Jaran David Manzanet- yes, Hon. Verna Diggs - yes and Hon. Derek Perkinson - yes, Hon. Tahanie Aboushi - yes). **Outcome:** **Motion Passed**

II. Discussions

a. CB 10 Park Updates

- i. **Pesticide Safety** - Chemically- based Roundup is not being used. NYC Parks advises that the pesticide which is being used is biologically-based.
- ii. **Harlem Historic Park/ Jackie Robinson Park Update** - NYCEDC will provide a more detailed presentation in March.
- iii. **Brigadier General Charles Young Playground** - Plumbing pipelines secured and being installed.
- iv. **Jackie Robinson Park Conservancy Updates** - no updates at this time.
- v. **Hansborough Recreation Center Updates** - (The capital project remains on track).
- vi. **Harlem River Park** - Parks and Department of Homeless Services (DHS) are doing outreach to two individuals who have set up a homeless encampment in the park. Development of water access is pending. (Please see the NYCEDC presentation above.)
- vii. **St. Nicholas Park So.** - designated a Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project - A design process is scheduled for February 23rd via Zoom at 6:00 pm.
- viii. **William McCray Playground** - NYC Parks is waiting for a boring sample report.
- ix. **Renaissance Playground** - A Community Parks Initiative (CPI) capital project. - Parks will be holding a charrette - date is to be determined.
- x. **Rucker Park** - Junior Knicks Clinic program will run from January through March. - Park Management will assess any repair needs for the comfort station and playground.
- xi. **Jackie Robinson Park** - 2nd Annual festival planned for 4/15/23. Upgrades will be made to the ballfield entryway. Food vendor opportunity being explored. NYC Parks is assessing a dog run design for the park.

- xii. **Courtney Callender Playground** - NYC Parks is seeking funding to facilitate the capital project.
- xiii. **A. Philip Randolph Square** - A design process pre-scope meeting is to be scheduled. The Community requested the extension of the park perimeter north to 116th Street and advised that lighting is needed and the fence will be extended. Three additional trash cans have been added. Benches will be replaced.
- xiv. **Frederick Johnson Playground** - Comfort Station Reconstruction Project is on-track for completion by Spring of 2023.
- xv. **Fred Samuel Playground** - Homeless population has diminished and persons are cooperating when asked to move. Some vandalism has occurred in the comfort station, which had to be shut down a few times to deter drug activity.
- xvi. **Harlem Lane Program (Percy E. Sutton Playground)** - no update at this time.
- xvii. **Langston Hughes Playground** - Needles found in baby changing station - station removed to danger and to deter drug activity.
- xviii. **Hancock Square** - no update at this time.
- xix. **ACP, Jr. Malls** - no update at this time.
- xx.

I. Old Business

- a. Courtney Callender Playground Comfort Station - NYC Parks did a site visit and found that water and electrical sources are intact and suitable for the installation of the comfort station. NYC Parks is identifying funding to enable the capital project.
- b. The feasibility of a Jackie Robinson Park Pool Conversion to Pool/Ice Skating Rink is being explored by NYC Parks.
- c. William Atmore Byrd Classic Basketball Court Rename Request (inside of Langston Hughes Playground) - still pending
- d. CB 10 WiFi Forum & CB 10 Parks - An inter-committee collaborative task force has been formed to plan a community forum.

III. New Business - None

II. Announcements

- a. Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Help NYC Parks Plan the Renovation of St. Nicholas Playground South in advance by visiting nyc.gov/parks/input and clicking on the “Register Here” link below “How to Participate.” NYC Parks is starting the design process for the partial renovation of St. Nicholas Playground South, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and W. 129th Street. We invite you to share your ideas on how the play equipment area in this park should be improved to better serve the community. We’ll use your input to develop a plan for the renovation. Please join us at this meeting and feel free to invite others who may be interested. For anyone unable to attend the meeting ideas can be submitted until March 9th. For accessibility questions and additional

information, contact Dmitry Kalmykoff by Feb. 20 at (212) 408-0203 or dmitry.kalmykoff@parks.nyc.gov.

- a. Friday, February 17th Silent Disco Dance Party - Hansborough Recreation Center, located at 35 West 134th Street. Event will feature an 80's and 90's theme. A lock to secure your belongings is required. No exceptions. Masks are strongly encouraged during all activities at recreation centers. Wash your hands before attending a program. Please stay home if you are sick. Event is FREE and open to adults 18+ years and older.
- b. 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 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.

IV. Adjournment - Motion made to adjourn by Hon. Barbara Nelson and seconded by Hon. Dana Points.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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