

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting: October 10, 2017
CB12 Conference Room (530 W. 166th St., 6th fl., NYC 10032)

Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (Chair), Mitchell Glenn (Assistant Chair), Daryl Cochrane, Natalie Espino, Domingo Estevez, Barbara Frazier, Richard Lewis, and Karen Taylor (Public Member). Board Members Present: CB12 Chair Shah Ally (beginning of meeting), Mary Anderson, Sally Fisher. Staff: Ely Silvestre. Also Attending: Elaine Delgado & Margaret Connors McQuade, Hispanic Society; Bob Barnett & Jessica Morris, Harlem River Community Rowing; Julie McKay, Steven Harris & Trish Anderton, Inwood Canoe Club; Kate Word, NYC EDC; Jennifer Hoppa, Irina Bright, & Charlene Edwards, NYC Parks; Wendy Hilliard, WH Gymnastics; Deborah Cardona, Save Inwood Library/Inwood Preservation.

Mitch Glenn, Ass't Chair, brings the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Liz Ritter arrives and assumes chair at 6:50pm, offering an update of the status of last month's Committee resolutions (both passed full Board unanimously) and announcements of upcoming events.

1. Hispanic Society: Margaret Connors McQuade, Assistant Director; Elaine Delgado, Development Director (6:40pm)
 - a. Here to give an update on the Society.
 - b. With the building under renovation into 2021, currently running programs offsite and building partnerships with other Washington Heights non-profit arts and educational organizations. Programs include:
 - i. Educational programs in schools
 - ii. Family programming
 - iii. Concerts – next series starts 12/21, on Woman Composers.
 - c. The Society is raising money, both from government sources and private sources.
2. Harlem River Community Rowing: Bob Barnett & Jessica Morris (7pm)
 - a. Volunteer Rowing Club, competitive. Many educational programs.
 - b. Mission: to provide affordable recreational rowing to the NYC community.
 - c. Historically based at Roberto Clemente Park in the Bronx, HRCR has been dispossessed due to renovations. Looking for a home. Desperately seeking storage space.
 - d. Earlier this year ran program based at Muscota Marsh pier.
 - e. HCRC looking for support and guidance from the community, and ways to increase community engagement in rowing.
 - f. HCRC wants to build a youth rowing program. Works with other partners (e.g., RowNY)
 - g. Participants come from Washington Heights (50%), Harlem & Inwood (about 25%), and elsewhere around NYC.
 - h. Liz suggested that HCRC contact Sandra Harris of CU Gov't/Community Relations re:
 - i. possible use of CU boathouse for temporary storage
 - ii. potential for CU Crew Team members to volunteer with HRCR
3. Parks Update, Jennifer Hoppa, Administrator - Northern Manhattan Parks (7:15pm)
 - a. Amtrak Bridge: design practically finalized. Work to begin next fall.
 - b. In conjunction with our prior topic on storage space for the HRCR, a question was posed regarding boat storage at Muscota Marsh, which had been a capital request but was denied by OMB as it's not capitolly eligible. Jennifer suggested restoring it to our budget prioritization process as an expense item.
 - c. Eco Dock: still need \$900,000; project cannot begin design until it's fully funded.

- d. Inwood Hill Nature Center: the Public Design Commission requested some changes. Work should start next spring. Construction duration 18 months. Restrooms should be open next spring.
 - e. Henry Hudson Bridge pedestrian path will be closed for a long time during MTA's reconstruction work on the Bridge.
 - f. Gorman Park is closed as the retaining wall destabilized. Will continue to be closed for quite some time, but the repair is funded. The scope of the repair is still not finalized.
4. Capital and Expense Budget Prioritization process (7:40pm)
- a. Liz explains the process and discusses the potential items to be voted on.
 - i. As always, everyone present at this meeting, both Board members and members of the public, will vote to determine priorities. Each person receives 3 stickers for expense items and 5 stickers for capital items, to be placed as people wish. One may put all stickers on a single preferred capital or expense items, or one sticker for each of 3 or 5 items, or some combination.
 - ii. A change this year is that we will submit far fewer items to the full Board than in previous years, and the Board as a whole will not exceed the OMB guidelines of 25 expense and 40 capital items (as it has in previous years) since that strategy continually has proven to be counterproductive.
 - iii. Liz lead a review of Expense and Capital items to reduce the items to vote on. Items already funded/completed were removed. Others were removed as they are under the purview of another Committee. Some items were merged with similar priorities to create a single item. Some items were eliminated to streamline the list and increase the likelihood of success for the remaining items.
 - 1. Jennifer suggested that Inspiration Point accessibility, Braille entrance signage in major parks, and accessibility Anne Loftus Playground's sunken water feature might be rolled into existing expense/capital contracts; letter to follow.
 - 2. Expense: four items survived the review, and a capital item was moved to expense, for a total of five items.
 - 3. Capital:
 - a. Twelve items survived the review, as well as 5 for 'continuing support'.
 - b. New items to provide accessibility to various features in CD12 parks were added, as was the renovation of Raoul Wallenberg playground.
 - b. Voting proceeded. Board votes were counted separately from public votes. Although the public vote is very important and the Committee and Board must be responsive to that, the Committee has the responsibility also to recall the testimony and past input of members of the public who have attended prior meetings but were not at this one.
 - c. Expense Needs Prioritized (see attached):
 - i. #1 More Programming Funding (9 Board votes/ 8 Public votes)
 - ii. #2 PEP officer funding (B9/P1)
 - iii. #3 Sanitation, Maintenance, Ops and Horticulture staff (B6/P1)
 - iv. #4 Muscota Marsh Boat Storage (B1/P14)
 - v. #5 Forestry Crew (B6/P0)

- d. Capital Needs Prioritized (see attached):
 - i. #1 Native American/African burial ground (B7/P4)
 - ii. #2 Hispanic Society Upgrades (B4/P13)
 - iii. #3 Raoul Wallenberg reconstruction (B6/P2)
 - iv. #4 Reconstruct Park Pathways (B6/P1)
 - v. #5 Shoreline Preservation (B1/P13)
 - vi. #6 (tie) Msgr Kett Playground renovation (B4/P3)
 - vii. #6 (tie) Add Lenape Garden to Nature Center (B4/P3)
 - viii. #8 Morris Jumel Mansion accessibility (B6/P0)
 - ix. #9 J Hood Wright overlook accessibility (B4/P0)
 - x. #10 Highbridge Tower Phase 2 (B3/P0)
 - xi. #11 More family BBQ areas in Parks (B2/P1)
 - xii. All 6 items for “Continuing Support” from last year are still funded and in various stages of execution and will continue to be ranked “CS”
 - e. Additional follow-up: Karen will work on submitting a proposal for the Native American/African Burial Grounds to C/M Rodriguez through Participatory Budgeting. Mary Anderson & Sally Fisher, who both have experience with PB, agreed to assist.
5. Review of scope of Inwood rezoning Draft Scope of Work for the Plan’s Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that the work scope covers all of the PCA Committee concerns. These will be included in a Letter that the CB12M Chair is writing by the Oct. 13th deadline to the Mayor’s Office and NYC EDC summarizing the Board’s feedback, based on a review by each CB12M Committee of the areas under its respective purview (9:20pm):
- a. Waterfront development and recreation
 - b. Water quality protection, including storm water runoff; air quality
 - c. Parks, Greenstreets, and other open spaces
 - d. Open spaces in terms of view sheds, light, air
 - e. Increased population will cause parks usage to go up. Will programming, maintenance, and facilities be increased proportionally? What about noise?
 - f. Impact on bird flyway and other habitat impacts in air, on land, in water
 - g. Recreational and cultural facilities

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Mitchell Glenn (edited by Liz Ritter).