

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting: September 5, 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, Richard Lewis; **Excused:** Barbara Frazier. **Board Members Present:** Sally Fisher, Mary Anderson. **Staff:** Ely Silvestre. **Also Attending:** Elizabeth Masella, Jennifer Hoppa, Wesley Hamilton, NYC Parks; Diego Avintura, Vanessa Rodrigues, James <illegible>; Dahmein McFadden, Amanda Kraus, RowNY; Trish Anderson, Inwood Canoe Club; Deborah Marton, Charlie Reynoso, NYRP; Joanna Castro, NoMAA, Harold Forsythe, NYS Sen. Alcánatara; Nancy Bruning, Ft. Tryon Park Trust; Katherine O’Sullivan;

1. **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Announcements** (Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair)
 - Meeting called to order at 6:36pm.
 - Reminder that the EDC Upzoning of Inwood is beyond the scope of tonight’s meeting; all encouraged to attend 9/6 Land Use Committee meeting.
 - Sally Fisher for Friends of Inwood Hill Park announced Monarch butterfly restoration project being undertaken by several volunteer groups

2. **J. Hood Wright Park Outdoor Fitness Area** Design Presentation (reso item)
 - NYC Parks design for 1500 sq. ft. Adult Fitness Area in the NE corner of park at 176th & FWA
 - District 10 Participatory Budget Project at \$250k based on IHP Fitness Area design process
 - 13 pieces of equipment (several custom; 5 are accessible)
 - Extended fences, new drinking fountain, new trees
 - Discussion: R. Lewis expressed concerns regarding accessibility and w/c turnaround. A: accessible pieces are ADA compliant. Members of the public expressed concerns about the lack of a stretching wall. A: There is that equipment at other fitness areas. Each fitness area is a little different. These pieces were selected based on extensive discussion with fitness user group. A stretching wall can be swapped out for one of the other pieces of equipment. By show of hands it was agreed to move forward with the proposed plan and support proposed resolution. Final vote was unanimous. (Committee 6-0-0; Other Board: 1-0-0; Public 10-0-0)

3. **Conceptual Design Plan for Sherman Creek Educational Pavilion & Boathouse**
Presentation by NYC Parks Department, Row NY and New York Restoration Project (reso item): J. Hoppa, NYC Parks/ D. Marton, NYRP/ A. Krauss, Row New York
 - Conceptual site plans for Sherman Creek waterfront park with expanded capacity and water access along with an environmental education pavilion. It will also move the components upland and make them more storm-resistant.
 - Estimates on timeline: Education Pavilion 12-18 months; Boathouse by 2022
 - NYRP boat programming focuses on elementary school-aged children. Row New York discussed their programming for grades 7-12, serving many schools in the community. Programming is free to 80% of kids served, as well as to those with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Most of the team rowers come from GWHS due to proximity to the facility.
 - Discussion: R. Lewis: questions about STEM content. D. Cochrane: plans for free kayaking programs. D. Estevez: questions about outreach to local youth. M. Glenn: questions about Row NY selection process. By show of hands it was agreed to move forward with the proposed conceptual site plan and support proposed resolution. Final vote was unanimous. (Committee 6-0-0; Other Board: 1-0-0; Public 5-0-0)

4. **NEW BENCH: Temporary Public Art Installation in Inwood Hill Park** Presentation by E. Masselle of NYC Parks and J. Castro of NoMAA about new exhibit funded by Partnership for Parks grant
5. **Northern Manhattan Arts and Culture:** Summary of work and upcoming events by N. Espino, Vice Chair
6. **Parks report:** review of summer in Parks; update on programming and capital/expense projects; announcements of upcoming events. (See J. Hoppa's report, attached.) Highlights:
 - \$65mm in City funding for capital projects in our 600+ acres of parks
 - 10pm curfew in IHP for barbequing
 - IHP water line project underway; completion expected late Spring '18. IHP Nature Center nearing end of design completion; construction on target to begin late Spring '18 pending bids, with completion est. 18 months.
 - working w/ 33rd Pct. Re: drugs in Duarte Sq. (171/B'way) and Plaza at 161/St. Nicholas.
 - Dyckman Farmhouse, Pinehurst Steps, MJM exterior restoration, and several items in Highbridge Park are funded and can come out of Capital Priorities.
 - Highbridge Anchor Park Phases I & II in design and should go to construction next year, in the Fall and Spring, respectively.
 - Audubon Playground \$7mm project underway. Expect design completion by the end of '17; construction begin Fall '18.
 - Javits Playground is in bidding cycle; construction could begin as early as March.
 - CPF Grant in 3rd round, with about diverse 18 groups/programs receiving funding.
7. **Preliminary discussion of FY'19 Capital & Expense Budget priorities**

Ranked priorities due to OMB late October. Shared last year's priorities (i.e., for FY'18) with updates as to status of various projects. Items to be ranked at October Committee meeting; please provide feedback regarding items to be added/changed by first week of October for 10/10 meeting. Possible new item: Inwood Slave Cemetery commemoration, with signage and/or audio component would be capitally eligible. Clarification needed of jurisdiction/purview for lighting creation or maintenance as well as emergency call boxes (i.e., PCA Committee item, or T&T as a request to DoT).
8. **Old Business / New Business / Mail / Additional announcements / Adjournment**

Jeremy Santos reads a statement on behalf of Coach Dave Crenshaw about United Streets programs at the Sunken Playground. The meeting adjourned at about 9:45.