

Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee

June 9, 2020 (held virtually via Zoom)

Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Daryl Cochrane, Assistant Chair; Richard Allman, Nobles Crawford; Sally Fisher; Danielle Jettoo; Ayisha Oglivie; Alexis Marnel, Public Member. **Excused Absence:** Yomaris Smith (Public Member).

Absent: Francisco Lopez; **Other Board Members:** Edda Santiago, Omar Tejada; Osi Kaminer; Richard Allman; Leo Jimenez; Mariela Graham; Domingo Estevez; Steve Simon **Staff:** Paola Garcia, Ebenezer Smith. **Also Attending (55 members of the Public in attendance; *note, some didn't put their full names or a name):** Alexander Campos, Hispanic Society; Alyce Stark; Betsy Haggerty; Betsy Hill; Can Ersoy, Catarina Rivera, & Tyreek, WH/I Food Council; Cynthia Auburn; Dara Finkel; Dorkys Ramos, Uptown Stories; Edith Bolton; Efaris; Eileen King; Hilary Hinzmann; Hilda; Hope Kaye; Jahzeel Montes; Jennie Boone; Jennifer Bristol, Ft. Tryon Dog Owners Group (DOG); Jerry Culligan; Jessica Cohn; JKM; Johanna; Joseph Cleemann; Julia Attaway, Mother Cabrini Shrine; Kathryn Levin, Friends of Inwood Hill Park; Latino Film Market; Lauren Elmore; Lesly; Lucie Gibson; Mark Wallen; Meredith Duncan; Michael Akers; Michelle Pham; Nancy; Nikolas Dando-Haenisch; Pat Tillery; Rene Cuenca, NYC Parks; Sarah Pollack; SF; Hon. Shahabuddeen Ally, Former CB12M Chair; Sheila A.; Simon Surowicz; Sixto Medina; Tanya Brunet; Tiffany Ernst; Trish Anderton;; Victoria Sadoff; Zaq Landsberg; Shiloh Holley, Morris-Jumel Mansion; Steve; Wojak; Allegra LaGrande; poukah@nyc.rr.com; Minerva Muniz; Christian Perez, NYPD 34th Precinct; Patty; Peter Skawinski; Karen Jolicoeur; Insp. Asha Harris, Parks Enforcement Patrol; Loretta Six; Jessica Brockington; Gilbert V.; LMP; Jenny Boone.

1. The meeting was called to order at about 6:35pm by the Chair.

- Announcement that this meeting is being recorded (audio only for non-panelists who speak); intro of Committee members. Reminder on the procedural matters, how to use the chat/Q&A and “raise hand” feature, and the difference between the webinar and meeting formats for participation by Committee members and members of the public.
- Held a moment of silence to honor the upheaval and unrest in our community, city and country; especially for those African-Americans killed in racist and homophobic/transphobic attacks, as well as for a man who hanged himself this morning in Ft. Tryon Park.
- Recognition of the beautiful and powerful murals throughout the community on local storefronts which were boarded up as a precaution against potential looting and which our business owners graciously allowed to be used as canvases to honor current anti-racial struggles, turning fear into healing.
- No further update on Lenape St. co-naming. Circulating petitions in the summer to be used for the December street co-naming bill.
- Thanked all of the protest organizers that have done a great job in our parks and our street; special shout-out to the 34th Precinct’s handling of the protests.
- Last month’s Reso re: Inwood Hill Park ballfields passed 41-0-1-1 in the General Meeting.
- We’re not required to meet over the summer, however, it would be great to meet in July since so much is going on in our neighborhood. Lack of attendance will be considered excused and won’t be marked against a member. Proposed our usual second Tuesday (July 14th).
- Pride Events going on in our neighborhood (Daryl and Danielle) (6:44pm):** Forum on the parallels between HIV and COVID, and gov’t response (tomorrow) ; Queens Pride had a virtual Pride this past Sunday; NYC Pride is outstanding in terms of plans for an event (usually the last Sunday in June). Website NYC.gov/lgbtqcovid. NYC Commission on Human Rights is having two Netflix watch parties (this Thursday and 6/24) on “The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson”. Danielle shared a poem by Kellen Lords.
- Chair Lorris Ritter:** Made announcement about the BBQing item later in the agenda: it’s a full agenda and we will be getting to it, but it is later in the agenda so please be patient; despite anonymous signs that were posted around Inwood, there is not now and never was a secret proposal, secret or otherwise, to expand BBQing/grilling to the Indian Road Lawn or to the IHP soccer field. *[This came up multiple times during the meeting and repeatedly was addressed by the Chair.]*

2. Brief Parks & Cultural Organization Updates (6:50pm)

- Jennifer Bristol (Ft. Tryon DOG):** Asked if there was going to be park monitoring on enforcement of the rental Revels in the park - also; Park employees were handing-out masks in the morning; and suggested handing out masks later on in the day to meet the higher number of people A

(Jennifer Hoppa): Many orgs/depts. are giving out masks at different times. Q: Also wanted to know about the dog run opening. Mentioned the Dongan path's erosion due to a high amount of rain. A (Chair): we are gathering these and other questions from the chat and Ms. Hoppa will address them in her Parks report.

- **Julia Attaway (Executive Director, Cabrini Shrine):** New to the job (3 weeks). 12-15k visitors/yr; and looking to partner with more immigrant organizations to support their orgs and the community.
- **Alex Campos (Hispanic Society):** Recapped the fantastic May virtual concert, which is archived on their website. The next one will be on June 25th. HAS also has been doing kids' workshop, and will be collaborating with other local organizations to create a virtual summer camp for kids (free and only open to residents of upper Manhattan). Doing more virtual learning opportunities, which initially were only for the donor base but are being opened to public.
- **Shiloh Holley (Morris-Jumel Mansion):** Continuing virtual programming this summer. ConEd family day starting this Saturday; registration is on the website. Also beginning a new series, "Lunch Break Lectures" where educators and staff will be contributing. Info: MorrisJumel.org.
- **Dorkys Ramos (Uptown Stories):** Registration for summer workshops (poetry, fiction, how to draw comics, etc.) now open! Three new workshops this summer for kids (poetry, songwriting, exploring identity through art); classes begin 7/6. Also offering pop-in workshops (ages 7-17) on the website. Info: UptownStories.org.
- **Jahzeel Montes (Internal Creations):** Small arts organization for classical guitar; promotes life skills and comradery. info@internalcreations.com.
- **Sally Fisher (Friends of Inwood Hill Park):** Riverside/Inwood Neighborhood Garden (RING) currently closed due to COVID so membership extended 6 months. We have working groups still active to provide essential maintenance. Compost committee is still operating; drop-off Sat. 9am-noon. The RING will be turned into a Monarch Butterfly waystation this summer.
- **Jennifer Hoppa (NYC Parks):** This year's Lotus Music & Dance "Drums along the Hudson" Native American and multicultural festival will be held virtually this year on Sat., June 20th, honoring Joy Harjo, the first Native American Poet Laureate (2019-20); flyer and Zoom link to follow.
- **Martin Collins (NoMAA):** The 2020 Uptown Arts Stroll is online with virtual Open Studios each Thursday at 7:30pm through July 30th; join papercut artist Josefina Hernandez this Thursday; June 11th. And in two weeks (6/25): Liz Ritter, CB12 Park & Cultural Affairs Committee Chair, will showcase works she purchased at past Strolls. Visit artstroll.com/nomaanyyc.org for more information on these and other events: Uptown Arts & Culture Summer Camp, a collaboration among 15 uptown arts groups (July 6-17 & 20-31); entries for the 9th annual Dominican Film Festival extended to July 1st; Census Coloring Contest for Kids deadline is June 20th with a \$50 prize; Community League of the Heights & Sisters Uptown Bookstore's Book Club with author Karen Taborn is this Saturday; June 13th at 2pm.
- **Arilyn (Latino Film Market):** Virtual Film festival; films and LatinX concert. Looking to partner with the many other cultural organizations that have come together to provide virtual activities for the community. Info: latinofilmmarket.org.
- **Anastasia Galko (Riverside Park Conservancy):** Summer on the Hudson series is working on bringing their classes virtual; since there are limited opportunities at the moment. Sports camp is cancelled for 2020. If you'd like to volunteer to get involved in taking care of the park. Anastasia@riversidepark.org

3. **Washington Heights Inwood Food Council ("WHIN") (Catarina Rivera; Sally Fisher; Tyreek; Can Ersoy) (7:28pm):** Sally, an active member of the Food Council, introduced the other speakers who gave a brief PowerPoint presentation. WHIN is a community-based nutrition and food justice organization founded in 2016 to encourage sustainable food systems and healthy food consumption in Washington Heights & Inwood; to provide and encourage access to healthy food options; and potentially to grow their own food. Included in the mission is to increase: the amount of public land designated for food gardening in WH/I; the amount of affordable and healthy food available within

the WH/I; and WH/I residents' awareness, knowledge, and self-efficacy related to urban gardening, nutrition/healthy eating, and food justice affecting the WH/I community. Together with its Founders' Committee they have held organizational meetings, community education events and workshops, potlucks, family gardening days, movie nights, arts & literacy events, and more. They have received grants from the Citizens Committee of NYC, and worked through the New York Restoration Project to apply for and receive Federal grants, and hired their first paid staff (an Administrative Coordinator) last year. The program year is divided into two parts: Harvest (April-November) and Winter (December-March), with the former more focused on the garden space, gardening skills, and harvest; and the latter on workshops, potlucks, and other community events. A special focus on giving children/teens the knowledge and experience of gardening; while educating adults/parents on healthy food habits. The garden also gives food out to gardening participants. All events are held bilingually (English/Spanish), with simultaneous translation so that everyone can participate equally. They also are doing outreach with other neighborhood groups with similar or overlapping missions. During these COVID times all of the programming is of course virtual, with only basic maintenance at the garden. WHIN is actively fundraising and seeking community help for these challenging times; for more information visit www.whinfoodcouncil.org; looking to raise \$4.4k in honor of their fourth anniversary. Asked CB12M to help find space for a community garden because this part of Manhattan is lacking in community growing spaces. Also appealing to the Committee to help ensure that funds allocated during the 2015 Participatory Budgeting to create a community garden in Highbridge Park to be used for this purpose somewhere else since the site in Highbridge Park turned out to be unsuitable.

Q&A: The Chair acknowledged the importance of this topic and the work of this organization, and requested that the subsequent discussion be very focused in consideration of the many other items remaining on the agenda. Q (Danielle Jettoo): Have you identified any areas you'd like to use for a plot? A: Yes, specifically: one by GWHS that belongs to the DOE and another on the sloping area of lawn at the southern perimeter of IHP along Dyckman Street just west of the Payson Playground, as well as some gardening at Isabella which is for residents and not strictly open to the public. There are several smaller spaces but we don't know the status of who owns them. Q (Omar Tejada): Have all events been moved online? A: Yes. Danielle offered to make a motion in support, but Liz asked her to wait until we had some additional feedback from Parks so that our motion could more fully reflect what we need the agency and our elected to do. Jennifer stated that Parks' *Green Thumb* initiative is very supportive of these types of organizations and programs, but the challenge is that WHIN's current site at Sherman Creek has more restricted public access than public parks, e.g., fencing and open/closing hours, and therefore is more protected. So Parks has to be careful about siting urban gardens in a way that is not considered privatization of public property, which presents obvious legal challenges. NYRP is on mapped parkland, but they have a management agreement which includes guarantees for public access. Additionally, soil safety is a major potential issue. In some areas the Department of Health has found there to be high levels of lead and other contaminants. Parks regulations don't allow edible food to be grown open, unrestricted parkland due to risk of contamination if the soil is not protected. Finally, the sloping area of IHP just west of the Payson Parkhouse has underground wells that were installed during the drought and wouldn't be suited to gardening. It would also be taking away public, open-access land that people use for picnicking and passive recreation and turning it to a limited, restricted use. Q (Sally Fisher): What about some of the land behind the gates at the Dyckman Marina. A: It's an active marina. Although there are gates to close at night, it's in use as an active site. Q (Natalie Espino): The spot on the GW Campus already has a "green thumb" group; any new initiative going forward should ensure that everyone is collaborating should that plot be identified as suitable for urban gardening. A Yes; we are working with that group and are part of their community coalition. Q (Ayisha Oglivie): Any thought to the possibility of vertical farms, which can be outdoor or indoor; gave some examples in midtown. A: We tried to work w/ Good Shepherd Church but they have rented that space so public rooftop access will no longer be possible.

As there appeared to be broad consensus for a resolution in support of urban gardening based not only on this conversation but on conversations about it in Committee over time. The resolution would be in support of this program and the expanding of urban gardening options within our community, and for the Food Council and other organizations to work together and with the Parks Department, the Departments of Health and of Buildings, and the Department of Education, and property owners to identify possible areas for urban gardening, including any buildings that might lend themselves to vertical gardening, including provisions for accessibility, soil mitigation, and funding. The vote was unanimously in favor with five votes from Committee members (Liz, Nobles, Ayisha, Danielle, Sally; Daryl and Alexis had to leave early) and five from other Board members (Omar, Edda, Leo, Mariela, and Richard).

- 4. Proposed Art Installation in Fort Tryon Park (Elizabeth Masella; Senior Public Art Coordinator at NYC Parks and Zaq Landsberg; artist) (8:09pm):** Note: Birds on Broadway, will be extended for a few months due to the Coronavirus. Shared the winning proposal from the Clare Weiss Emerging Artist Award, named after the former NYC Parks Public Art Curator; the Award was given annually in each borough from 2011-2015, and was brought back last year. *"The Tomb Effigy of Margaret Corbin,"* 32"x90"x36", weighs 800# and is made of plywood and plaster resin and painted to look like marble. It can be anchored or weighed; it is designed to be sturdy enough to be sat upon and touched, which will add to its patina. It is evocative of the French and Spanish tomb effigies in the Cloisters' Gothic Chapel, with symbology of the American Revolutionary War (eagles, stars & stripes, tri-corner hat and 18th C gunnery tools) in lieu of medieval heraldry. Female historical symbols are severely underrepresented in NYC, so this homage to a female hero of the American Revolution is a welcome addition to the public art. The tomb effigy is a beautifully site-specific piece which figuratively and aesthetically brings together Fort Tryon Park's Revolutionary War history, American heroine Margaret Corbin, and the Cloisters. The artist spoke briefly about the piece and stated that in the 1920s the Daughters of the American Revolution, wishing to commemorate Mrs. Corbin, the first woman to fight in the US military, located what they believed to be her remains and had them re-interred at West Point with much fanfare. In 2017 an analysis of those remains determined that the remains were not in fact Margaret Corbin's, so this memorial is all the more poignant. Although the Committee's response was unanimously positive and we are supportive of the installation, no reso is needed since it's a temporary installation. The project is anticipated to be installed somewhere in the Linden Terrace (exact location TBD pending site visit) in October (in time for the Battle of Fort Tryon reenactment in November) and to remain in place for about a year.

- 5. NY Parks Update - Jennifer Hoppa - (8:22)**

- NYC Park workers have been on the front lines during this pandemic, keeping our parks clean, safe and thriving so we have a place to get restored during the pandemic. We hope you continue to #ThankaParkWorker when out in the parks.
- Many parks used for peaceful and productive protests expressing collective upset over injustices, including one organized by local youth on Sunday.
- Parks has partnered w/ HHC to site a testing center *in* the Highbridge Pool, and can test up to 1000 people/day. Open 9am-7pm Mon-Sat. No out of pocket costs; no appointment needed.
- Parks has 11 food distribution sites and has given out 27 million (!! meals.
- Social-distancing updates: there are "Parks Ambassadors" from Parks, NYPD, DEP and other agencies to educate on social distancing and hand out masks. Their hours are at various times, including now up into the evenings. If you see people not practicing social distancing you can call 311. Courts, ballfields, playgrounds, and dog runs are still closed; sports field permits have been rescinded through 8/31, and special events permits on hold through June. There is no seasonal staff in this current budget cycle. This situation is dynamic and will likely be changing in the coming weeks.

- Brief coyote update. Two coyotes confirmed to be residing in IHP. They are not dangerous and actively try to avoid people; give them a wide berth for their protection. For more coyote information, see February & March minutes.
- Using a “suck truck” to clean out drains. Trails & Stewardship Div. leading cleanups and plantings, and digging out drainage areas to help with erosion and silt build-up. MTA is also working on cleaning up runoff areas.
- Budget cuts allowing, we have programmed \$800k in path repairs throughout IHP to help address drainage problems. Also addressed some specific issues raised in the Q&A chat box about the marsh regeneration area.
- Purchased fencing and working with Stewardship Division and a community group and volunteers to restore the marsh regeneration area around the Gaelic Field. Put on hold for COVID, but hoping to resume that work soon. The completed project will include interpretive signage.
- Re enforcement of noise issues in IHP, we have PEP Inspector & NYPD Community Affairs on the call now. This information helps us to discern patterns and target our limited enforcement resources.
- Scooters are harder to deal with as they are motorized and move quickly to evade enforcement.
- “Quiet Zone” designation doesn’t hold up to legal challenge as it’s not a real designation in law.
- Re enforcement, this is likely to continue to be a challenge with 660 acres of parks throughout the District, and no seasonal staffing to meet the increased use in spring and summer.
- There was an extensive back-and-forth between the Chair, Ms. Hoppa and several public attendees in the chat regarding the content and placement of newly installed signage, with several people insisting that the new signage which should be at the entrance to IHP is no longer there. Jennifer will confirm and request replacement signage if needed.
- There is a strong request for re-opening of dog runs? There is strong demand for this, particularly given the increasing conflicts between dog owners and other parks users as people with dogs have nowhere to go. The Chair urged Ms. Hoppa in the strongest possible way to carry back the message that the community is demanding that dog runs be reopened. A: this decision is being made through City Hall, not at Parks. I don’t know what is the current rationale, but part of the issue is how much we can actually monitor additional facilities. The Chair noted that passing a resolution demanding that dog runs be reopened is too slow; it was the strong consensus of the Committee and members of the community in support of reopening dog runs.
- Q&A: Q (Danielle): I’m seeing more NYPD & PEP in our parks, especially IHP & Dyckman Fields. How is it decided when it’s NYPD and when PEP. A (PEP Inspector Harris): Can’t speak to NYPD’s deployment of officers. Parks Enforcement Patrol are “peace officers” are placed in areas in response to 311 complaints or social distancing violations. Q (Sally Fisher): How many Peace Officers are in the parks, and what are their hours; note that there are ballgames happening on the fields; what is status of the IHP Nature Center renovation project? A: Nature Center was not deemed essential. A (Steve Simon): construction on many projects began yesterday; he will check on status of NC and get back to us. A (Insp. Harris): Do not have the exact numbers; there have been absences due to COVID, but there is a command in the north with a Sergeant and officers; coverage borough-wide is 7:30am-11pm but that may not be for every part of the borough. Units can be deployed to different sectors depending on need and availability. A (Domingo Estevez): What are the kids going to do with the parks at limited opening due to COVID. A: It’s not just the Parks Dept. decision; but the Mayor’s Office DYCD; DOH and other agencies for when things open. Protection is a major factor. Q (Ayisha): When will permits go back into effect for small social gatherings A: addressed earlier in the meeting; rescinded through the end of August; permitting system back open 6/30]. The Chair advised Insp Harris that there was a lot of chat regarding a condition in the moment of large gathering and amplified music in IHP.

6. Regulations and placement of BBQ/Grilling facilities conversation (8:50pm): General conversation around the challenges and benefits BBQing (technically: grilling) in parks. The Chair summarized some of the feedback received in the time since this agenda was announced and in the chat this

evening. Many people enjoy this particular form of recreation. There also are many issues/complaints around noise/sanitation/trash, as well as a fire safety component. Some have also raised environmental concerns based on the charcoal fuel and smoke, especially given that smoking is prohibited in parks. There also are equity issues and social conflicts, and well as concerns related to COVID and group gatherings. Jennifer Hoppa addressed/clarified information on the permissible areas for BBQ/Grilling: built-in grills at Sherman Creek 203rd St. street-end park; IHP peninsula (218th St.); Dyckman Fields (midpoint and southern end); Ft. Washington Park (north of 158th St. to the soccer fields); Highbridge Park (177th St.). The reason why they don't do away with the Peninsula for BBQing is because there's high demand there, and it is better managed now that it's limited to that area. Q&A followed, first from members of the public, then from Members of the Committee:

- *Lauren Elmore*: needed clarity on the budget cutbacks in relation to trash pick-up; it's particularly bad on Mondays (i.e., following the weekend). A(Steve Simon) the loss of some seasonal staff will have impact on trash pickup. *Follow-up*: Particularly with the loss of the dog runs, there is an extra conflict.
- *Jenn Bristol*: lodged complaint about dog run and park monitoring.
- *Joseph Cleeman*: Wanted people to keep in mind that living next to a public park is a privilege. The people own it and the people are entitled to enjoy it. Public space are for everyone, and everyone should feel welcome in them. Some people like BBQing; some people don't, but we have to share.
- *Hilda*: against extending the BBQng in IHP due to garbage left behind, and double-parking.
- *Kathy Levin*: Part of the culture of our lives is changing due to COVID, and this presents an opportunity to make changes in a positive way, to be stewards in our parks.
- *Peter Skawinsky*: a lot of trash in park particularly on Monday mornings. We need more resources to clean the park. We need more garbage containers. A (Jennifer): we've put out more trash cans. We are also working on a trash management plan to increase frequency of emptying.
- <from chat>: who are PEP staff; what is Insp. Harris contact. A: in Manhattan North: Sgt. Baretto & Sgt. Rivera, and myself: 212-360-1433 / asha.harris@parks.nyc.gov. People also can call 311.
- Based on questions in the chat about the signage not being where it was said that it was, the Chair requested that Ms. Hoppa's staff check the perimeter of the park to ensure what is or isn't there, and to fabricate and install new signage if indeed it is missing. [*Note: following the meeting the Chair went to IHP and confirmed that signage is indeed placed as indicated and reports of its absence is erroneous.*]
- *Danielle Jettoo*: I had proposed this at the last meeting because the areas tend to be crowded so there's a need. Also: parks are multi-purpose, and what is a need is objective, and it's important to be mindful of multiple competing needs. Can we expand BBQing along the HRD? Finally, if we do expand these areas it would allow us to expand and increase the resources (like staff, trash receptacles, etc.) A (Jennifer): NYC Parks ONLY gets new resources like staff, Big belly trash receptacles, etc. when it's a brand new facility as part of a Capital Project, otherwise we have to maintain what we have with the staff we have.
- *Allegra LeGrande*: Voiced concern at some length (about 6 minutes) regarding the level of park infrastructure to meet the demands of heightened park visitation.
- *Domingo*: There's a need for additional resources to meet increased demand; and asked Jennifer and Steve what can be done. Also encouraged people concerned about this to join the "defund NYPD" movement, so the City can use some of those resources for parks and things we are discussing this evening. Also noted that it is illegal for people to falsely call 911 for a crime that is not in fact happening. A (Jennifer): Parks Dept. doesn't choose its own budget. The Council and the Mayor are the ones where more funding for Parks needs to come from. NYers for Parks is working with a lot of community groups to advocate for more funding for parks; they are requesting that at least \$47mm of the \$60+mm cut from Parks' budget to be reinstated so we can bring back 340 parks workers.
- *Daryl*: Are other parks having the same issue with trash after BBQing weekends A (Steve): Not unique to Inwood Hill Park; so no, it's not unique. The Dept. tries to accommodate; but it's a

staffing issue. Mentioned the additional staff received through the “Play Fair” initiative, which we are hoping will be permanent. People are welcome to lobby their councilmembers to refund those positions. Q: How can we interact with other people better to try to improve things?

- *Jenny Boone*: Offered locations for new dumpsters; suggested small lawn signs that addresses loud sounds; suggested community service hours for schools to help with volunteering. A (Liz): Parks has a robust volunteer program, but is there some way to get SYEP positions into parks?. A (Jennifer): You have to have a certain vehicle to collect the trash; so that does complicate options. We have stewardship days; also encouraged people to work with Partnerships for Parks on volunteer projects once that activity is allowed to resume post-COVID. We will look into SYEP, but that's a budget issue. A (Rene Cuenca) gave contact information for P4P: rene.cuenca@parks.nyc.gov.
- *Sixto Medina*: This is an interesting discussion, but most of these things have been issues for the 20+ years I have lived here. Discussed his concern with the “clash of culture” leading to community friction when it comes to park attendance.
- *Ayisha*: Second Domingo’s comments on false reporting, and Defund NYPD. We don’t visit parks because of allergies, so we usually go to gatherings and parties. I am concerned about grills being left behind or thrown into the water; we need more signage or better design to accommodate for actual use.
- *Sally*: It’s not just noise and trash; it’s an environmental risk to a sensitive area. Also, once BBQ areas are reopened, will be have PEP, will the peninsular still close at 10? A (Jennifer) Peninsulas & Dyckman fields are 10pm; we also will be having parks ambassadors handing our masks.
- *Nobles*: NYC Parks got about \$534mm in 2019; NYPD gets about \$6bb. Why don’t just take a little bit of that money and put it into our parks? The friction isn’t between our cultures, it’s getting more resources for our parks. Please email, call, tweet/FB/IG your elected to divest even a little bit from NYPD to get a little bit more money for our parks.
- *Anastasia Galko*: Followed-up on Nobles’ point about reallocating police funding into parks (sign the petition at ny4p.org) which will also send a letter to the Mayor and your Councilmember.

The Chair wrapped up the conversation noting that this was a long conversation and while we don’t all agree with each other, the conversation was respectful. In terms of parks usage, we need to be kind to each other, tolerant and welcoming of our fellow park users, and also lean on our elected NYC officials (Council & Mayor) properly to fund out parks. Also gave a shout-out to the Councilmember Rodriguez for the millions of dollars that he has allocated to our parks.

Danielle asked if we should consider a reso in favor of additional funding for some of the kinds of equipment mentioned in the previous discussion. Liz noted that these conversations are what drive our budget priorities rankings in the fall, and that it’s better to make sure that these discussions are reflected in that exercise rather than each of the various Committees having multiple resos related to specific funding requests. Apropos of the larger societal conversation around reallocation of a portion of the NYPD budgets to other priorities, perhaps this could translate to an increased funding for Parks’ needs. Encouraged people to sign the “Play Fair for Parks” petition at NY4P.org.

There being no old or new business or additional announcements, **the meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm** (motion by Nobles; second by Daryl; no objection).