



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

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July 1, 2021

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Re: Resolution Supporting the Proposed Renovation of the Dyckman Restaurant.

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 40 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting, at its Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, General Meeting, supporting the proposed renovation of the Dyckman Rest as presented with the modification of placing additional benches, and recommending that the NYC Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes before them for final review; and urging the NYC Department of Transportation to evaluate the adjacent intersection and make changes to improve the safety particularly concerning the increased presence of young children; recommending that Parks consider the addition of signage which notes the historic location of the Dyckman Oval and the history of Negro League baseball, as well as a possible renaming of the Dyckman Rest itself; and urging the Parks to work with the community to identify a group of stewards within Inwood's dog-owning community, including representation from NYCHA residents, to ensure a harmonious and successful utilization of the new dog run for dogs of various sizes.

**Whereas:** Dyckman Rest comprises a large rectangular seating area with mature trees as well as an under-used set of benches on the cement pavement at the northwest corner of Highbridge Park and the southeast corner of the intersection of Dyckman Street, Nagle Avenue, & Fort George Hill, near the former site of famed the Negro League's famed baseball arena, the Dyckman Oval; and

**Whereas:** Dyckman Rest is located near many apartment buildings whose residents lack recreational facilities for themselves, their children, and their dogs, and across the street from the Dyckman Houses, a public housing project with many children and dogs, the former of whom compete for the use of their playgrounds from non-NYCHA residents who use the NYCHA playgrounds, and for the latter of which there is no nearby dog run; and

**Whereas:** The Office of the Mayor of the City of New York has allocated \$5 million to renovate Dyckman Rest as part of the Inwood Rezoning; and

**Whereas:** New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation ("Parks") held a well-attended public scoping meeting on February 24, 2021 (via Zoom) to obtain community input on the Park's use and design, and received significant input from members of the NYCHA community as well as other Inwood residents, parents, dog-owners, and other community stakeholders; and

**Whereas:** Parks presented on June 8, 2021, to a well-attended meeting (via Zoom) of Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee to generally positive feedback on a proposed design for the Dyckman Rest which incorporates the site's natural topography and maintains the same number of benches while adding a children's playground with recreational equipment and a water feature, a rain garden, picnic tables, lights, and a small dog-run, in a compact design that maximizes the use of space and preserves the site's several mature trees; and

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**Whereas:** Parks agreed to add more benches to their proposed design to maximize capacity for adults who use the space; and

**Whereas:** The dog run is smaller than is ideal, but could not be made larger except at the expense of recreational space for children, seating for adults, or plantings which help to more than double the site's surface permeability (an increase to 43% from 19%); and

**Whereas:** Construction is expected to begin in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2022 and to take twelve months; and

**Whereas:** The adjacent intersection is a current danger and poses a potential hazard to children in the new playground, particularly concerning Dyckman Street's eastbound vehicles turning right onto Fort George Hill and westbound vehicles turning left onto Fort George Hill or Nagle Avenue; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed renovation of the Dyckman Rest as presented with the modification of placing additional benches, and recommends that the New York City Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes before them for final review; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the New York City Department of Transportation to evaluate the adjacent intersection and make changes to improve the safety particularly concerning the increased presence of young children; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan recommends that Parks consider the addition of signage which notes the historic location of the Dyckman Oval and the history of Negro League baseball, as well as a possible renaming of the Dyckman Rest itself; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan urges Parks to work with the community to identify a group of stewards within Inwood's dog-owning community, including representation from NYCHA residents, to ensure a harmonious and successful utilization of the new dog run for dogs of various sizes.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. William Castro, Borough Commissioner NYC Parks  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Ms. Jennifer Hoppa, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC