



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

December 28, 2016

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver
Commissioner
NYC Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal
830 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (29)In Favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain supporting the proposed design presented by NYC Parks at the December 6, 2016 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting and urging the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval.

Whereas: Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez initially approved \$100k for an outdoor fitness area on Dyckman Street in Inwood Hill Park, with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) to design and build such a facility within the allocated budget; and

Whereas: a public scoping meeting was held on January 22, 2016, and based on feedback of the facilities' users it became clear that the initial allocation would be insufficient and NYC Parks procured an additional \$150k from the Councilmember, for a total of \$250k; and

Whereas: a presentation was made by NYC Parks architects at the November 1, 2016 meeting of the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs (PCA) Committee for such a plan, but members of the community and other users of the facility, including representatives of BarStarzz from both within and outside of the community, had concerns regarding the equipment manufacturer and also wished to see significant modifications of the proposed facility; and

Whereas: NYC Parks, a New York City agency, is constrained by NYC procurement regulations and the City's VENDEX process, but was able to work with a manufacturer to get design modifications in the equipment being used for the proposed project; and

Whereas: NYC Parks made a presentation at the December 6, 2016 meeting of the PCA Committee which incorporated significant modifications in scope, size, and design based on both feedback from the November meeting and subsequent input of the BarStarzz; and

Whereas: the BarStarzz desired an additional design modification which the NYC Parks was able to get a manufacturer to make in the proposed equipment; now, therefore be it

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design presented by NYC Parks at the December 6, 2016 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting, as subsequently amended (i.e., that the equipment have a 5' bar rather than a 4' bar); and be it further

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the Public Design Commission to support this project when it comes before the Commission for approval.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Commissioner Mike Docket, PEP – NYC Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Hopper, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator
Commanding Officer Raymundo Mundo, 34th Pct.



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Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 Community Board 12, Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (29)In Favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain recommending that NYC Parks & Recreation agreed to revisit the revitalization of The Inwood Hill Park Nature Center which was destroyed by Hurricane Super Sandy; the internal design in consultation with the community (including users and experts) to provide improved and updated programs and activities for the community.

Whereas: The Inwood Hill Park Nature Center, a much-used facility for education and other programming in Inwood Hill Park, was destroyed by Hurricane / Super-Storm Sandy in October, 2012, and has been closed since then; and
Whereas: the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) and the City of New York experienced significant delays in finalizing the projected reimbursement from the federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for the repair of the Nature Center, and \$2.5 million finally was secured through FEMA, the Mayor's office, and the office of NYC Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez; and

Whereas: a presentation was made by NYC Parks architects at the December 6, 2016 meeting of the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee for a plan to restore the building to public use; and

Whereas: the new design is ADA compliant and accessible, more flood resistant, with mechanical structures to be installed on roof and shielded from view by wood screening; site entrance is improved by moving to center; exhibits will be restored; and current roll-down gates will provide adequate security; and

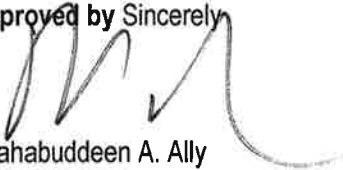
Whereas: the plan is finished but initial landscape restoration will be incomplete: site circulation, paved area will be done immediately; Native America interpretive garden, resilient habitat restoration and the rest of plan needs \$500,000 additional funding; and

Whereas: the public has questions and concerns about programmatic quality and content, as well as how programmatic plans for the Nature Center will be incorporated into the internal design, and there were additional concerns that the rehabilitation of the external building not limit enhancements and updates to the interior structure (within existing funding constraints); and

Whereas: NYC Parks agreed to revisit the internal design in consultation with the community (including users and experts) to provide improved and updated programs and activities for the community; now, therefore be it

Resolved: that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design presented by NYC Parks at the December 6, 2016 Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting provided that (1) the rehabilitation of the external building does not limit enhancements and updates the internal structure and (2) the NYC Parks revisits the interior design in consultation with the community (including users and experts) to provide improved and updated programs and activities for the community.

Approved by Sincerely


Shahabuddeen A. Ally
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
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