

**Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**Wednesday October 2, 2019 @ 6:30pm** (rescheduled from 10/8 due to Yom Kippur)  
**CB12 Conference Room (530 W. 166<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> fl.)**

**Committee Members Present:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (Chair), Nobles Crawford, Domingo Estevez, Barbara Frazier, Rosy Perez; Joanna Castro (Public Member), Alexis Marnel (Public Member). **Committee Members Excused:** Daryl Cochrane (Assistant Chair), Richard Allman, Francisco Lopez, Ayisha Ogilve, Karen Taylor. **Other Board Members Present:** Sally Fisher. **Also Present:** Jack Silverstein, Jorge Prado, & Jacqueline Lavine (NYC Parks Capital Division), Nancy Preston, Pat Courtney (Volunteers for Isham Park), Charlene Edwards (NYC Parks Department), Jenifer Gonzalez, Joanna Castro (NoMAA), Jeanne Ruskin, Jennifer Hoppa (NYC Parks Department), Alexander Campos & Margaret Connors McQuade (Hispanic Society of America), Obed Fulcar (Friends of Sherman Creek), Jeff Dugan (50 Park Terrace West).

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm** by the Chair, with welcome announcements and updates, in the absence of a quorum which was achieved later in the meeting prior to voting.
  - There were resolutions presented at the full Board in September, all of which passed unanimously: RowNY Boathouse at Sherman Creek, Msgr. Kett Playground renovation, and the Hispanic Society Capital Plan, the latter of which was a joint reso with Land Use.
  - Update on Immigrant Research & Performing Arts Center RFEI: deadline is in December; there will be an information session later in this month.
  - Dyckman Marina & restaurant: new restaurant Licensee (Jimmy Goldman/The Hudson) opened Labor Day weekend, and may remain open for part of October, weather permitting. Parks has released an RFP for operation of programming at the Marina; responses are due October 11<sup>th</sup>.
  
- 2) Brief Programing Updates from various community arts and cultural groups:** (6:45pm)
  - Charlene Edwards from J. Hood Wright Park: Halloween “Nightmare on 172” turns the Rec Center into a haunted house. Also announced that she will be leaving J. Hood Wright Park.
  - Jennifer Hoppa: announced many upcoming events, including enhance play programming at the Ft. Tryon Park Terrace; Open House Week at Highbridge & J. Hood Wright Rec. Centers; Little Red Lighthouse Festival on 10/5, many upcoming cleanup/planting/stewardship opportunities; children’s educational/science programing in Ft. Tryon Park; outdoor movies; puppet shows; Open House NY tours; fitness programs; conservation walks; and more. Also announced J. Hood Wright Park mini soccer pitch ribbon cutting on 10/10. *[Note: postponed to 10/22 due to weather.]*
  - Sally: Announced upcoming programs for Friends of Inwood Hill Park & the WH/I Food Council.
  - Alex Campos of the Hispanic Society Library announced that the Sorolla Gallery is open for tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays by appointment ([www.visitorsorolla.org](http://www.visitorsorolla.org)). Admission is free.
  
- 3) Presentation on Msgr. Kett Comfort Station renovation plan (NYC Parks Capital Div.):** (7:02pm)
  - Jorge Prado, Jackie Lavin and Jack Silverstein were present.
  - Last month the Committee heard a presentation and passed a resolution on the renovation of the Msgr. Kett Playground. The comfort station is a separate \$4.5 million capital project funded by the Mayor’s Office, and requiring its own approval from the Community Board and the Public Design Commission. The project includes demolition of the existing comfort station and construction of an entirely new one. The project will also replace existing utility lines and add an RPZ (reduced pressure zone) backflow inhibitor as required by DEC.
  - Design is anticipated to conclude by July 2020, procurement is estimated to take nine months, and construction is estimated at 18 months, with completion estimated in the fall of 2022. The Playground renovation project is further ahead and is estimated to take only twelve months, so there will be a period of at least six months during which the Playground is open and the comfort station is still under construction.

- Because the Playground is located in a projected future flood zone, the new comfort station will be elevated by a foot to prevent future flooding of the building and the equipment it houses.
- The overall footprint of the building is 35'7" x 20'2". There is a women's room on one side, a men's room on the other side, and a central mechanical area which will house a boiler and other HVAC equipment, the playground's spray shower manifold, an electrical panel, tool storage, and a desk and lockers for Parks staff.
- Each bathroom will include an ADA-compliant stall with a toilet, grab bars, and wall-mounted fold-down infant changing table; two additional fixtures (two stalls each with a toilet in the women's room, and two urinals in the men's room), and two ADA-complaint sinks.
- In light of the ongoing conversation within the Committee over the past many months, and the specific provisions of the resolution passed last month regarding gender-neutral/family-friendly restrooms, Liz asked the Architect how Parks planned to accommodate this demand. He responded that it is not the agency's policy to provide gender-neutral bathrooms as single-use bathrooms can enable dangerous or illegal behavior such as drug use, prostitution, sleeping by homeless people, etc. He stated that Parks has standard designs for comfort stations based on size, and changing the design to include single-use, gender-neutral bathrooms would require not just a change in design but a policy shift that is beyond his purview as an architect.
- There was much brainstorming of possibilities, including making the mechanical area smaller, adding an additional exterior door to the ADA stall, having non-ADA-compliant gendered facilities and a non-gendered ADA-compliant room or rooms, and other permutations.
- Barbara suggested to add a small sink in the ADA stall, and several people suggested using a trough-style sink with multiple spigots in the open area to save room. Parks rejected the idea as these are not standard fixtures, and it is preferable to use standard fixtures because the plumbing parts are more readily available making the facility easier and cheaper to maintain.
- Barbara suggested the addition of such locker room embellishments as a bench and coat hooks in each bathroom, an improvement to which Parks was amenable.
- The Committee voted unanimously to reject the proposal as it failed to meet the Board's requirement for gender-neutral/family-friendly facility/ies. (Committee: 5-0-0-0; Public Members 2-0-0-0; Other Board Members 1-0-0-0; Public 2-0-0-0.)

**4) FY '21 Capital & Expense Budget Priority Rankings:** (7:02pm) Using last year's capital priorities as a starting point and following a brief report from Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator Jennifer Hoppa, the Committee removed completed (or nearly completed) items, transferred to continuing support ("CS") those items which have been funded and are in construction or procurement, and added for consideration items raised over the past year. A representative of the Morris-Jumel Mansion requested to add \$20k in OTPS funding as an expense item but the group declined on the grounds that this would be included in the general district-wide item for increased arts/cultural program funding. All of the items were written on poster-sized paper taped to the wall and everyone was given ten stickers of one color to vote their capital priorities and six of another color to vote their expense priorities. Committee members were given two sets of stickers to balance their broader perspective of District-wide need. The priorities to be submitted for the full Board's consideration at the 10/15 Public Hearing are attached.

There was no Old Business/New Business/Mail/Additional Announcements. There being no further business, **the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.**

## FY '21 Capital & Expense Budget Priority Rankings for CB12M Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee

### Capital Projects:

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee FY '21 Capital Budget Priority Rankings (10/2/19)		votes	rank
1	Repair badly degraded staircases & retaining walls in Isham Park	34	1
2	Hispanic Society renovations: roof, interior, terrace, & ADA compliance	24	2
3	Renovate / repair Inwood Hill Park Nature Center following hurricane Sandy (requires additional \$1.5+ million allocation)	23	3
4	Raoul Wallenberg Playground & Basketball Court Reconstruction (Amsterdam btw. W 188/190)	20	4
5	Renovate eastern (Broadway) perimeter playground in Ft. T ryon Park's Anne Loftus Playground and add sensory playground	19	5
6	Repair & reconstruct Ft. T ryon Park's Linden Terrace	18	6
7	Native American / African Burial Grounds (Tenth Ave. & W. 212th St.): Develop a memorial with directional & interpretive signage, and a facility to support community events	13	7
8	Inwood Hill, Highbridge, and Fort T ryon Parks: reconstruct 60+ miles of park pathways & paving	13	7
9	Highbridge Rec Center weatherization (fix windows to retain heat/cooling)	8	9
10	J. Hood Wright overlook and viewing platform: ADA accessibility	4	10
11	More family picnic / BBQ areas throughout CD12 Parks to meet increasing community demand	3	11
12	Renovate Payson Playground & make it and park house accessible	2	12
13	Shoreline preservation and bulkhead repairs in Ft. Washington Park	1	13
14	Asbestos abatement and restoration of "Building D" in Ft. T ryon Park for security presence	1	13
	Full renovation of Fort Washington branch library	CS	CS
	Morris-Jumel Mansion exterior envelope & barrier-free ADA-compliant access	CS	CS
	Renovate/rehabilitate Msgr. Kett Playground (204 btw. 10th & Nagle)	CS	CS
	Dyckman Farmhouse: roof repairs	CS	CS
	Lighthouse Link pathway in Fort Washington/Riverside Park	0	--
	Renovate W. 186th St. Basketball Courts	0	--
	Replace Highbridge Water Tower Carillon	0	--
	Inwood Hill Park Nature Center: replace hardscape with plantings & educational garden	0	--

(Capital items which received zero votes were not included in this year's priorities.)

### Expense Programs:

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee FY '21 Expense Budget Priority Rankings (10/2/19)		votes	rank
1	Fund additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) (DPR)	17	1
2	Dedicated Forestry Crew for CD12: Dedicated crew of 4 to help w/ sustained invasives removal & native plantings in Inwood & Highbridge forests (DPR)	14	2
3	Increase DCLA funding by at least \$500k to increase support for arts programming and individual artists within CD12M (DCLA)	13	3
4	Increase funding by at least \$500k for various programming throughout CD12 parks, playgrounds, courts, & historic houses: fund additional Playground Associates and Parks & Urban Park Ranger staff as well as contracted specialists for afterschool, recreational, waterfront, and cultural programming for kids, teens, adults, & seniors (DPR)	12	4
5	Fund additional staff for Sanitation, Maintenance & Operations, Horticulture (2 APSWs, 6 CPWs to ensure more sites have fixed post staff) (DPR)	8	5
6	Maintain funding to continue to provide six days of service at all NYPL branches (NYPL)	5	6