



Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
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Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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May 14th, 2019

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

Re: Resolution supporting the proposed design presented Inwood Hill Park Ballfield # 1

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 34 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting, at its Tuesday, April 23, 2019 General Meeting, supporting the proposed design presented by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation with a few suggestions.

Whereas: Inwood Hill Park (IHP)'s Ballfield #1 is a heavily used public facility that has fallen into disrepair due in large part to drainage issues in the outfield, aging infrastructure, and misuse of perimeter fencing for batting practice; and

Whereas: Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez has committed \$1.4 million for the renovation of this ballfield as a replacement in kind; and

Whereas: The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) held a scoping meeting on 12/4/18 at PS/IS176 which was attended by a broad cross-section of the community of IHP users, the consensus of which called for a replacement of outfield fence, ADA access to field and bleachers, a batting/pitching cage, in addition to reconstructing the ballfield and addressing drainage and erosion; and

Whereas: Representatives of NYC Parks presented at the April 9, 2019 meeting of Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee a plan to regraded 250' into the outfield, plant and formalize desire lines on slopes adjacent to the fields to mitigate erosion, check and clear catch basins, add a 12' wide x 75' long x 12' high batting/pitching cage along the southern perimeter and an ADA ramp on the eastern perimeter (Seaman Ave. side), renovation of the bleachers to provide accessibility, placement of additional native planting at the perimeter to provide additional drainage defense, placement of at least two water fountains with bottle-filler spigots, and the placement of two solar-powered "big belly" compacting trash receptacles at a specific location on or adjacent to the ballfield at an exact location to be determined in consultation with NYC Parks Maintenance & Operations staff; and

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Whereas: Placement of recycling containers is not possible due to contamination of recyclables with regular garbage at a rate of more than 10% – an NYC Sanitation pilot project for recycling at Inwood Hill Park was unsuccessful given public misuse pattern – but the placement of bottle-filler water fountains should help to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottle; and

Whereas: Lighting for the field is not included in within the scope of the project's budget, and while temporary lighting for specific events is supported by the community, there is no consensus as to the desirability of permanent lighting of this ballfield; and

Whereas: Final drawings of the design will be released in the fall of 2019, and should be ready to break ground in the fall of 2020, after the conclusion of the baseball season, and construction is expected to take a year, or possibly less if the weather is mild; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design presented by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation with the following suggestions:

- Use of a smaller mesh or double-fencing and placement of a cross bar in the back and perimeter fencing to protect the fencing from those who bat against it.
- Ensure path access along Seaman Ave. and at Isham St. entrance is maintained during construction.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Lewis
Chairperson

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

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC
Mr. Steve Simon, Chief of Staff Manhattan Borough Commissioner