



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

## Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes** **December 12, 2017**

**Meeting Location:** BRONX CB9 OFFICE

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:01 PM

**Board Members Present:** Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, Vice-Chair Kadesha Washington, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sharon Fernandez, Angel Martinez

**Board Members Absent:** Carla Singleton

**Board Members Excused:**

### **Introduction**

- A. Committee Chair, Board Members & Guest
- B. Committee Description: The Parks and Recreation Committee represents the community's interests with regard to parks, park services and all park related matters and acts as a liaison between parks users and the New York City Parks Department.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Blue Light Emergency Call Boxes – Locations**

- Never got an actual count as to how many there are. Mike from Parks is not present. Rep from Crespo's Office said they had a map but actually they were trying to acquire one that no one had. There is one by Morrison Ave by the water that was not working. Then a truck ran into another one, not sure if it is the same one. There are cars driving into the park all the time. The person who maintains the baseball field drives crazily around the park. He used the truck to line out the field. May not be a paid employee but rather a volunteer. It was brought to his attention that he was driving recklessly and the person talked back rudely. Complaints were given to the supervisor but nothing has been done. It would be up to the league to get someone more respectful. We can bring it to the attention of the people in the Parks Dept. who issues permits, Michelle Young, people and maybe they can bring it to the attention of the people using the field. He is connected to the league but not sure of which league. DM met with league officials about complaints and wanted to have a conversation about proper etiquette and wants the location and update of boxes. Unlike 911 that goes to general service, we believe these go directly to 43<sup>rd</sup> precinct, hasn't been verified but that is the belief.

#### **B. Ferry Service Update**

- Mike from Parks is not here so there are no updates to share.
- Joan Barnes: last night at Land & Zoning Meeting there was conversation about getting on MTA about what services will be running down there. They are having meeting with MTA to have conversation about busses at next Land & Zoning in January. At this time we can also talk about ferry service.
- Sharon: somebody else made a complaint at precinct about bus service. Inspector Pichardo said they would look into it. Chair Nick said they were out at 7 am but traffic was flowing this morning so Nick said they didn't see anything. Nick said Roadway was pretty good but tow truck in the corner holds traffic to alert their trucks out and

they double and triple park. When in reality last Tues it took 45 mins to get from Boynton Ave to Hunts Point on bus.

- Additionally, buses sit in front on Toys R Us and Boston Market on WPR up to two busses can be there and they are talking to dispatcher even when there is a mob of people waiting to get on. This is no place to stop the bus.
- At Hunts Point the bus drivers opens all door and people get on without swiping which is why they say we have low ridership when in reality there are a lot of people.
- Economic Development Corporation is the lead agency on the ferry project so they may be coming to planning but I'm not sure they will be coming to parks. A lot of the planning started in Parks. Jaime: Maybe we can talk to Will and Nick to give us updates because they have been giving us updates because it always has been changing. It would be helpful to get both EDC and Parks together. Look what came out of the conversation re: the concession not knowing about the close time. There are a wealth of questions about this projects including parking, facilities/restrooms, handicap accessibility, etc.
- It all resulted in a rfp by the parks dept in 2010, prior to this it was the site of a Clason Point yacht club, oldest yacht club in the Bronx (1923). Under Bloomberg, parks took over the site and was being rented from the Parks Dept., apparently the crowd that was in there was not neighborhood friendly. As a result, they lost their lease, there was also some talk about the Bronx Latin Riders, a motorcycle group that used to meet there and the Aviation and Volunteer Fire Dept. kept their trucks on the property which Parks used as a reason to end lease because they said they were subleasing property to somebody else. Building mysteriously burned down in 2009, primary night. As a result, it remained vacant and within a year park let out rfp. There were 3 respondents, the one who got it also had a concession in Throggs Neck. This person is also said to be related to soon to be councilmember, currently assembly member. The agreement said they had 3 years to develop a combination marina and building, some type of restaurant or food facility. Within 3 years, they were to give the city rent even if they had not done the project. In 2013, the Mayor announced Ferry service. Rather than Parks cancelling concession agreement that they never enforced because for 6 years nothing was done, they kept the same agreement with the same concession but they had the opportunity to cancel that contract and do something that was more related to the ferry that would be more connected to the ferry because the problem we have now that is scheduled to open in June of next year and we physically have no way of getting here other than walking. As soon as you get off the bus 39 or 27 bus you have 1/3 of a mile walk. Secondly, in Feb it would be very cold. There will a cover on the barge but not on land. So, there are all these kinds of practical questions. There was a committee formed, not composed of board members, but were a subcommittee of the board and Nancy Keys was the head of that. We wrote a whole list of recommendations of things we liked to see and shared with elected and re-released several years later. But then apparently concession popped up a year ago but there are basic questions defining their role with the ferry service.

### **C. Sub-Committee on Parks Committee Fund**

- Kadesha will chair subcommittee with Sharon and Joan. Kadesh would like to set a time to meet so that there can be a collective meeting.

Sharon: Is there an idea when funds will be released?

Jaime: No but we don't want to do any activities in the winter, spring is preferable. Maybe possibly same event in different parks.

Sharon asked will for a list of all parks in the district. There is a list, one that is too large to email but there is another list that had parks that were not in our district and in one meeting Mike from parks dwindled it down.

Jaime consolidated it, so he can email it to the agenda. The large one was from 2015 and it was as a project that CB9 paid the status of each park. They did all parks except 2: Soundview Park, which is the biggest, and Pugsley Creek. It may help to get a copy of that because of the recommendations that were in there, we may be able to do something with that.

Jaime: I got it from Will, maybe he can print it out for the next meeting. Let us know when you plan to meet so I can attend if I'm available.

- Kadesha: Joan and Sharon what are your plans looking like for the rest of the month?

Joan Barnes: January is ideal especially if we're talking spring.

Kadesha: Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at CB9. Anybody that wants to sit in on the meeting is more than welcome.

## **New Business**

### **A. Project Submission Process**

- No updates because Mike is not here from Parks and neither are Will and Nick to give updates. Capital projects are basically any improvements. Usually you have to solicit funds from local elected officials to see if they sponsor it, basically a wish list. It comes from committee to general board to sign off an approval and then to agencies in a roundtable to tell them what they want. Jaime: In Soundview Park, we want a skating park in the old ice rink course. AM Marcos Crespo, this is one of his pet projects so we may be able to get funding from him and he said he would be reaching out to other elected to fundraise for this. It is worth noting that the past 3-4 years nay capital project that took place were off the Bruckner Expressway but none south of the borders of the Expressway. It is worth noting that some money never trickles down. In Soundview, we don't even have bus shelters past Randall Ave. This can be brought up at MTA meeting that will be taking place. Only some have gone to Soundview Park and Pugsley Creek Park. The park near Bronx River Ave is going to get the above ground pool replaced with an in ground pool. Will have to ask DM Rivera on submitting capital projects.
- Joan Barnes: Honorees Marcos Crespo, Ruben Diaz, Jr, Det. Eric Hernandez and CM Palma were at the meet and greet on Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. We honored 3 instructors running the Senior Fitness Program. There was a nice turnout and there were some raffles. People signed up. Jaime: We also honored the former president of Friends of Soundview Park. Representatives of the elected came, Det was on vacation but two police officers came in his place to accept the award.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 pm.**

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

### **OFFICE INFO**

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