



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, Sharon Fernandez, Harry Dunlap

Board Members Absent: Carla Singleton

Board Members Excused: Kadesha Washington

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.

Speakers/Presentations

- A. Katrina Tall and Sunny from Parks Wildlife Unit presented regarding teaching people how to co-exist with wildlife. This program is new, they are celebrating their 1 yr. anniversary and their purpose is to educate people regarding wildlife. The presentation for the board focused on coyotes. Coyotes are more visible in the late fall going into the winter because the young are dispersing from their families. They are also visible in the spring when pups are being reared. As they disperse, they wander looking for a place to carve out their own territory. Coyotes look very similar to dogs but normally have a black tip at the end of their tail. For the most part they are pretty timid and usually avoid humans. In urban areas, coyotes are pretty nocturnal. Keys tips for co-exiting with coyotes are observe and appreciate them from a distance. The coyotes that are established in the Bronx are multi-generational and have lived in the Bronx for decades.
Residents should be careful not to be inadvertently feed coyotes by leaving food unattended. It is important not to feed pets outdoors or leave food outdoors as well as to secure garbage lids as coyotes can get into unsecured garbage cans. If you do encounter a coyote that is getting too close, hazing is recommended, this means making yourself big and shoing off the coyote. It is abnormal for coyotes to bite or attack humans. There is no plan for the coyotes to be relocated. Urban coyotes sometimes live in small pockets. Some prefer forested wooded area, however, others will use any type of green space and can go from green space to green space in a suburban area. Coyote habitats look like a hollowed out space or hole in the ground but only when they are denning or having pups during the spring and the summer. During the winter, coyotes are out and about. Coyotes may see a similar sized dog as competitors or small dogs as prey so it is important to always supervise your pet. To report wildlife, you can call 311 or visit the wildlife NYC's website: nyc.gov/wildlife. The website has a fact page about coyotes and also a way to report a sighting.
As per Chairman Himidian: Are there any studies being done on coyotes? Parks: Yes. Gotham Coyote Project is doing research on coyotes in NYC. They put out trail motion activated cameras throughout NYC. They will most likely post their findings on their website when the study is completed, however, they already have published

findings on coyotes. As per Chairman Himidian: Are coyotes tagged? Parks: They are not and we're not sure Parks has any intention of doing so.

Coyotes are somewhat closely related to wolves so they can interbreed with wolves. Coyotes living in the north east do have some percentage of wolf in them but they are still referred to as coyotes.

Old Business

- A. Chair of Parks, Jaime Feliberty invited Kadesha and Sharon to chair a sub-committee on how to spend the \$3,000 allocated to Parks Committee. Joan Barnes was also invited to participate.
- B. As per Chair Himidian: How is the blue light park initiative working? Parks: a blue light stand had to be replaced because someone ran into it with a vehicle.
- C. As per Parks, Parque de los Ninos will be going into construction very soon.
- D. 174 is still in the design phase. As per Chairman Himidian: when are they coming back? Parks: by next month they should come again.

New Business

- A. There is a family of cats by the bleachers and the field house, there is a hole in the bleacher and the cats are living there.
- B. Concrete Plant Park has portable air pumps and tools are available as well, the request was made to get something similar in Soundview. Bronx River Alliance may have funded this. Follow-up with Bronx River Alliance and CB2 to ascertain the origin of this equipment.
- C. Friends of Soundview Park is having Annual Meet and Greet on Wednesday, December 6th from 5pm-8pm. They are looking for monetary donations for their membership drive. Friends of Soundview Park is a volunteer led organization that provides services and programming for all ages, annual summer arts festival, they sponsor cleanups, it's my park day in the spring and fall, they do daffodil planting with the daffodil project. They also do art in the parks, there is one scheduled on Sunday from 10am-11:45am at the Soundview Parks Fieldhouse titled, Paint It Up. Another scheduled in December is for holiday crafts and can be found on the Soundview FB page. Membership is yearly, youth is \$10 and adult are \$20, and \$35 for families. Donations begin at \$50.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

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