



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

## Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

**December 11, 2018**

**Meeting Location:** BRONX CB9 OFFICE

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Committee Chair Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sharan Fernandez, Mitchell Halpern, Kwabena Gabay, Abunoman Rahman, DM Rivera

### **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. Michael Schnall, New York Road Runners

The New York Road Runners is a nonprofit that hosts the New York City Marathon in November. They also offer free community and youth programs year around. They are in 800 NYC Schools servicing 125,000 youths in NYC with running programs and another 125,000 outside of NYC. New York Road Runners hosts an open run program in Soundview Park that takes place every Saturday at 9am. In addition, daffodils were planted in Soundview Park together with Partnerships for Parks. They also partner with other organizations to turn asphalt school yards into playgrounds and spaces for the community to use.

New York Road Runners is now interested in installing 7 mile markers in Soundview Park to memorialize the outer loop. These markers are helpful to track your progress. As per Mr. Schnall, the design is simple, the markers are 30 inches tall, 4 inches wide and 8 inches deep. They are reflective so that you can see the letters at all times of the day. Markers can go clockwise or counterclockwise. The marker can be installed by hand and are very easy to repair if necessary. Presentation for this project was displayed. New York Road Runners is very sensitive to making sure there is no damage to the park by these mile markers.

Chairman Himidian requested a copy of this presentation (PDF) to be shared with Board Members. This will be emailed to DM Rivera for sharing with the board.

As per Joan Barnes, are there arrows depicting which direction to go? As per Mr. Schnall, yes, the markers are not only designed to show you the distance you have run but also, they are located so that they steer you towards the path you have to follow. Additionally the mile markers include a map that tell you where you are in comparison to the entire park.

The hope is to begin installation in the spring.

As per Chairman Himidian, how long does it take to put markers in?

As per Mr. Schnall, 8 markers can be implemented in one day, therefore, the hope is to finish Soundview installation in one day. New York Road Runners is committed to paying for everything including installation forever.

As per Joan Barnes, which side of the road will they be placed? As per Mr. Schnall, it is on the pedestrian side though bike users are also welcome to use it as a resource.

New York Road Runners is interested in getting feedback from the board on this project to share with the Public Design Commission.

Motion was posed to approve 7 mile markers at Soundview Park. The motion was seconded by BM Kawbena Gabay and was unanimously approved.

As per Chairman Himidian, it would be useful to include the PDF attachments for the board members not present at this meeting as a resource for BMs when filing for this motion at the General Board Meeting this month.

#### B. Jose Gonzalez, Resident

Mr. Gonzalez introduced Mr. Mario Acevedo. They are having issues at Noble Park. Mr. Acevedo has a 50 and over Legend League that plays at the park but the comfort station is closed. As per Regional Manager Daniel Reynolds, this comfort station has a capitol project for reconstruction. It is currently in procurement, this can take up to 9 months to complete and then an addition 12-18 months to construct. As per Valerie O'Neil-Davis from Parks, the league is able to fund and place porta-potties in the park themselves with the permission of the Parks Regional Manager. Mr. Reynolds is the Regional Manager in the Bronx for Districts 7-12. Mr. Reynolds was present at the meeting since Ms. Ferguson is away on leave. Mr. Reynolds shared his contact with residents for processing porta-potty requests.

As per DM Rivera, this League has had a history of drinking on premises, double parking, staying until late, loud music, and urinating in the park.

DM Rivera proposed hosting the league's next manager meeting so that CB9 can discuss resolution to some of these concerns. This meeting may take place sometime in January. Parks Dept and NYPD will be invited to this meeting as well.

As per Mr. Reynolds, playgrounds will close at 6pm, 9pm in the summer, and 1am for large parks and open areas in the summer.

As per DM Rivera, it may be a good idea to identify and draft a letter to Parks regarding the parks CB9 would like to keep current close time for.

As per Chairman Himidian, what is the possibility of getting PEP Officers for the bigger parks considering the new 1am closing time?

DM Rivera requested these already through CM Diaz's Office to sponsor two PEP Officers for each park, Soundview Park and Pugsley Creek Park.

As per Chairman Himidian, the PEP Officers would have to be there dusk and beyond. Additionally, possibly parks should keep lights on until 1am to provide lighting while they are open.

Mr. Gonzalez also brought to attention that Noble Park does not have a working water fountain. Mr. Gonzalez will email Mr. Reynolds and CC DM Rivera regarding both permission for porta potties and fixing water fountains at the park.

As per Mr. Gonzalez, there is also an issue of illegal dumping on Rosedale and Gleason outside of the park which is leading to garbage that is outpouring. As per DM Rivera, when there is garbage on the street please call 311 so that the appropriate agency can follow-up on this matter.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Email to Comptroller Stringer re: Letter to Commissioner Silver**

As per DM Rivera Comptroller Stringer will be speaking with Commissioner Silver regarding all of the parks concerns that have been brought up. This meeting may take place in the Bronx.

As per Valeri from Parks, the Comptroller wants to know the entire procedure when it comes to maintaining Park trees.

As per Chairman Himidian, pruning is essential. If a person's limb is going to fall and damage their home, why should they have to wait until it damages their home?

As per Valerie from Parks, it's a liability issue.

As per Joan Barnes, it was evident how serious it was when after the snow storm when people were prohibited from entering parks.

Valerie will be following up on concerns brought up by Joan Barnes including signage at the four major entrances to the park with a map to direct park visitors, staking down tables so that they cannot be moved, request for a portable bike repair stand, and signage for curbing and cleanup for dog walkers. As per Valerie, the Commissioner will be getting back to Joan Barnes regarding call boxes as well.

As per Chairman Himidian, pruning is dire near Soundview Park by Morrison Ave and Lafayette parking. As per Valerie, Zev from Parks Forestry has a program that can teach people through a training process to conduct low level pruning.

As per Chairman Himidian, this is the best time to prune since there are no leaves on the trees.

As per Chairman Himidian, it is also important to have more garbage cans on premises.

As per Joan Barnes are drones allowed in the park? As per Parks reps, they are not.

### **B. Email to Parks re: Update on Clason Point Marina/Restaurant. As per Chairman Himidian, Parks will be at January's Parks Committee Meeting on this.**

## **New Business**

- A. As per Chairman Himidian every park in CB9 has been listed as well as their capital projects in a reference binder. The idea is also to digitize these resources so that are readily available. A resource binder will be completed for each committee. Committee should review and provide suggestions on addition resources to be added to binder at January's meeting.

## **Announcements**

- A. December's General Board Meeting will take place on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> at Evo Lounge & Restaurant at 7pm. Toys for the toy drive will be collected at this meeting.

## **Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 pm.**

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

### **OFFICE INFO**

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