



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2018

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Nicholas Himidian Jr, Sharan Fernandez, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Mitchell Halpern, Abunoman Rahman, Kevin K, 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. Kyle McLean, Puzzle Life

Kyle McLean from Puzzle Life presented on the need for Autism Acceptance following his brief presentation at February's General Board Meeting. As per Mr. McLean, he is interested in beginning several autism acceptance initiatives in the Bronx, including committing all local business to be mindful of consumers with special needs as well as a sensory park in CB9. As per Mr. McLean, Sensory play and sensory playground equipment isn't just about making the fun of the playground accessible to all ages. It's about fostering the development of real life skills through interactive play. Sensory playground equipment helps children develop problem solving skills, express emotions, promote empathy and engenders lasting confidence. This is why sensory equipment's for children of all abilities is important. Children with "autism" and sensory processing disorders may find challenges with socialization communication, play and imagination. Sensory playgrounds encourage exploration and discovery. It also provides a just, right experience for those seeking "sensory stimulation". DM will be working with Puzzle Life and committee on advocating for a sensory park in CB. Some options and ideas were discussed. One option is a 5,000 foot park unused on private property in CB9. DM will keep committee updated on this option.

New Business

A. Proposed Blackrock Playground Co-Naming, EMT Yadira Arroyo

CB9 supports the renaming of Blackrock Playground to EMT Yadira Arroyo. NYC Parks regulation regarding Parks renaming was shared. Regulations to be attached to minutes. Committee voted unanimously in favor to request NYC Parks to co-name Blackrock Playground to FDNY-EMT Yadira Arroyo. (Full Board Agenda)

DM Report

A. The New York Foundling

The Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division provides residential services, innovative community job training and placement, supported living, day habilitation, recreational and educational opportunities and in-home services to individuals and their family. They are hoping to open a residential board & care facility in Carol Gardens at 880 Thieriot Avenue. The scope of work was shared with the committee by DM Rivera who also introduced this project at the social service committee earlier this month.

B. Comptroller Meeting with Parks Dept

Notes from this meeting were discussed. Notes to be attached to minutes.

C. Legend Softball League Update

DM attended Legend Softball League managers meeting and discussed quality of life issues.

D. Proposed Restaurant – Clason Point Park

DM reminded committee that proposed restaurant will be having ground breaking this year and is scheduled to open next summer. (Presentation was given by NYC Parks to committee in FEB 2019) CB will have a meeting with community before ground breaking.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes drafted by CB9 Office Staff

OFFICE INFO

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