



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

May 8, 2018

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start

Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, Committee Vice Chair Kadesha Washington, Sharan Fernandez, Nicholas Himidian Jr.

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.** Parks NYC Wildlife Unit presented on local coyotes and explained that there are two months of data on the habits and trends of the coyotes in the Bronx. Coyotes remain mostly in Parks, St. Raymond Cemetery and the Golf Course, and very little of their time is spent throughout other areas in the neighborhood.

As per Chairman Himidian, what are they eating?

As per Parks Rep, it depends what's in their area, predominantly rodents, there are also some garbage type-human elements in there.

As per Committee Chair Feliberty, didn't a coyote bite a child a week or two ago?

As per Parks Rep, yes in Westchester, it is the second bite known, which is still pretty rare. The mother and child are both okay and got rabies vaccinations to be on the safe side.

There are two mature adults, one male and one female and one sub-adult, a sub-adult is a coyote that is not breeding, roaming in the vicinity.

As per BM Fernandez, where can we get more information on coyotes to share with others?

As per Parks Rep, WildLifeNYC is a good website to visit for more information.

Management of most animals is almost the same across the board: no selfies, maintain your property, make sure access points are closed off to property.

As per Walter Nestler, opossums, for example, are very common and interact in neutral areas.

As per Committee Chair Feliberty, are coyotes moving further into the city?

As per Parks Rep, they have been living in the Bronx for years, specifically, the Ferry Point Park Soundview Area where coyotes have had several litters.

- B.** Kelly Vasquez, NIDC (Neighborhood Initiative Development Corporation), not present to speak on this matter.

Old Business

- A.** As per Walter Nestler, any update on the ferry in relations to Parks, specifically the concession area?

As per Chairman Himidian, there are no updates to be shared.

As per BM Washington, this matter should be added to next month's agenda for follow-up.

As per Committee Chair Feliberty, there is no relation between the ferry opening and the progress on the concession.

As per Walter Nestler, can the committee write a letter to CM Diaz to get involved in the updates regarding the ferry and concession and to keep CB9 abreast of these updates?

As per Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, a motion was done in regards to this matter. All board members present approved the motion.

As per Chair Himidian, BM Washington and he will draft the letter including a thank you paragraph. The letter will be sent as soon as it is completed and will be attached to the minutes at the general board meeting for board members to see.

Motion was amended to include Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Senator Luis Sepulveda, and Senator Jeffrey Klein, Senator Gustavo Rivera, Councilmember Salamanca, and the Bronx Borough President as a cc in the letter. Motion was carried with one abstention.

New Business

- A.** Charging Stations at Soundview Park were discussed. As per Valerie Davis from Parks, in her conversation with the Parks Commissioner, she will look into this and the cost and logistics of this idea which she likes. Parks will get back to us on a later date on updates on this matter.

As per Chairman Himidian, there are some of these in the city and maybe we can use the same contractor that has worked with the city on these to get this done here in the Bronx.

As per Committee Chair Feliberty, there are still 2-3 blue lights that are not in commission. They contain metal plates that state "Out of Order."

As per Parks, NYPD also does work on blue lights so it could be through that agency that repairs are being done but she will look into this matter and circle back with the board.

As per Walter Nestler, can Wi-Fi be added to charging stations?

As per BM Washington, this would come back to capability.

As per Committee Chair Feliberty, there are no telephone poles inside Soundview Park which would make it difficult or impossible to get Wi-Fi to service the park.

As per Chairman Himidian, maybe York Film Studio would be willing to donate in-kind for Wi-Fi at the park.

As per Walter Nestler, was there ever anything provided from Public Access along the Bronx River on York Film?

As per Chairman Himidian, he believes there is a portion of where building will take place that requires a ULURP and because of the ULURP the entire walkway was going to be a part of that as well. The back end is still under construction.

As per Joan Barnes, maybe an updated presentation can be had at the Land & Zoning Committee.

Announcements (attach Soundview calendar)

- A. **Jaime Feliberty- Soundview Park updates** – Mr. Feliberty announced events from the Soundview Park Calendar (**Attached**).
- B. Mr. Feliberty called a motion for the CB9 Parks committee to request a letter of support from the full Board in favor of having Summer Stage Concerts return to Soundview Park. The vote was unanimous the motion was passed.
(The 43rd Precinct did a letter as well as Assemblyman Marcos Crespo.)
- Joan Barnes invited committee to come see newly planted butterfly meditation garden in Soundview Park
 - Chairman Himidian asked Valerie Davis-Parks how the permits are going and Ms. Davis responded saying hopefully things could go well. Chairman Himidian also asked about an update in regards to the cricket field and Ms. Davis had no update on cricket field to share aside from stating that the Commissioner has been meeting with the cricket contact person in regards to this.
 - Committee asked and discussed with Ms. Davis the process (what does it take) to clean out Field of Dreams at Pugsley and Lacombe.
 - Walter Nestler mentions Bolton Avenue and Harding Park being wetland and asked Valerie Davis to take a look into this.
 - Jaime Feliberty asked Ms. Davis of status on the storage bin for Soundview Park- Ms. Davis said it was approved but Committee Chair Feliberty said it isn't there yet.
 - Ms. Davis mentioned follow-up regarding resident complaining about poison ivy on the park barrier and going into her yard from the Metcalf Playground. Ms. Davis said she forwarded this service request to Vinny.

*Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty announced that he will be resigning from the Community Board 9 as of next month.

Chairman Himidian told Mr. Feliberty on behalf of the Board we really appreciate your contribution to parks and all that you've done and Mr. Himidian said to Mr. Feliberty that as long as he is chair, Mr. Feliberty will always have a place at the Board as a public member.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

OFFICE INFO

District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov

Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9

Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM