



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting **Minutes**

May 8, 2019

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Kwabena Gabay, Mitchell Halpern, Kevin Kiernan

Board Members Not Present: Sharan Fernandez, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Abunoman Rahman

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. Peter Lee, Food Truck Vendor**
Resident was not present at meeting
- B. NYC Parks Natural Resources Group, Harding Park and Pugsley Creek Park's Ecological Restoration Project**

As per the presentation, the coastal edge of Harding Park is being looked at. This project design is being funded by the National Wildlife Foundation, however, construction is not yet funded. The grant is to restore ecosystem functions to coastal environments using a community system model. Several volunteer stewardship events were hosted and homeowners association meetings nearby were attended. The areas looked at are the parcel by Gildersleeve Ave and the cove by the end of Underhill Ave.

One of the objectives of this project is to manage and filter storm water. Parks is also looking for volunteers to manage this site via Parks Stewardship and Bronx River Alliance. Deck of existing condition was demonstrated along with intentions for these locations with the objective of keeping these areas accessible to the public if at all possible. Possible picnic area (not barbeque section) and fishing area here, in addition possible opportunity to make a connection to the shore haven path, along with other suggestions.

Since construction is not funded, these changes will most likely occur in phases. Parks will be applying for grants. The project is projected to be completed in 5 years.

Saltmarsh creation and restoration will be funded by those that have to do mitigation here, for example by Parks. Ball park estimate of budget is 1.5 million dollars per acres of restoration. As per Chair Kwabena, is there going to be a walking space between Harding Park and Clason Point? As per Parks, there is a projected plan for a walkway that would connect these two. As per Chair Kwabena, a certain portion of the land will need to be acquired from the city? As per Parks, this would just be on paper to transfer ownership from one city entity (NYC DOT and DCAS) to NYC Parks.

As per Parks, there will be no assigned parking spaces.

As per Walter Nestler boring tests were conducted here. As per Parks results are still pending, but testing has already been funded through the design budget.

As per Walter Nestler, there is no public access to water on White Plains Road without having to go through private property. When Beachwood was developed, it was taken out of public access and he would like to see this go back to public access. When this occurred, it never went through the public.

Projected budget is 5-6 million depending on the results of the soil boring. If there is contamination, the expense can be higher.

As per Chair Kwabena, Pugsley Creek was already tested, was there any contamination? As per Parks, there was a small section that was hazardous contaminated and it was taken off site.

As per the Pugsley Creek project, this is a project on the West Side of the Creek that the Port Authority is leading. Parks will have a liaison on site at all of the construction meetings. The preliminary plans have already been brought to the board. The goals are to restore 2.2 acres of saltmarsh and 1 acre of upland, remove historical filth, and restore tidal march technology, among other things. Any trees that will be removed will be replanted. Construction is projected to start late 2019.

All soil will be removed off site and disposed of and will be replaced with clean sand for planting.

Old Business

As per Walter Nestler, what is the status of the concession at Clason Point? As per Chair Kwabena, I am focusing on that now.

As per Walter Nestler, Councilmember Diaz stated after Harding Park Presentation he stated that he is giving all funding and priority to Parks, specifically Borough Commissioner. Walter Nestler would like Borough Commissioner to present what projects are being funded in our district from City Council funding.

New Business

A. Renewable Energy

As per Chair Kwabena, he would like to start a project to have renewable energy to cover the parks in our district. After some investigation, a solar array can be placed in one of our larger parks to cover all the parks in our district. Based on the power output, this can be done for a lot less than the existing power output. Chair Kwabena will be doing more research and will present findings to the board. Handout of basic output of several parks and an explanation of a community grid was handed out to the committee. As per Walter Nestler, this is just an

exploratory suggestion? As per chair Kwabena, it is purely exploratory but he is putting steps in place that this can actually be created.

- B. As per Walter Nestler, is there be an update on the negotiations regarding the Shore Haven ball field/playground?

As per ShoreHaven representative, there have been several meetings with electeds, Borough President Office included and Borough Commissioner, however, it hasn't led anywhere. The conversations has been good but the follow-up isn't strong. The issue is that ShoreHaven isn't able to afford the insurance of this location, not so much the maintenance.

As per resident, is there a list of active projects so that we can keep track of what is still pending?

As per Chair Kwabena, he will attempt to gather this reply from DM Rivera. As per Walter Nestler, NYC Parks has updates on their websites, under Capital Projects.

- C. As per resident, he would like to suggest to have a box for children books in the park. This is in existence in a local park in Harlem. There is an organization that organizes this shared book dropbox. These should be placed in an area with high foot traffic where it is visible.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:09 PM

Minutes drafted by CB9 Office Staff

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