



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

## Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

**June 12, 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. William Rivera (DM)

### **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.

### **Speaker/Presentation**

- A.** Irfan Ahmed-NYC Parks & Mayor's Fund, Castle Hill Playground  
The Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC presented on an initiative to build 50 soccer fields across the city. This nonprofit organization fundraises private dollars to fund public programs. They broker private-public partnerships. They entered into a partnership with the US Soccer Foundation, Etihad Airways and Adidas. Each year 10 fields will be built over the course of 5 years. Fields are made of acrylic. They have a maintenance fund for repairs and they cover the full expense of repairs on the field. They have a license for 5 years, every time there is a repair made on the field, another 5 year duration is added on. A free afterschool program comes along with this initiative. The kids get free gear as well. Most partners are DYCD affiliated. Castle Hill playground is the proposed pitch for this district. Presentation is attached. P.S. 93 also in the district has already received a soccer field through Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC.
- B.** Irfan Ahmed-NYC Mayor's Fund, James M. Kiernan School  
As per NYC Mayor's Fund, today DOE made them aware that the James M. Kiernan School had viable space available for another pitch in the district. As a result, there was no time to prepare a presentation. It is right across the street from P.S. 93. The hope is to begin this installation this summer. It can take 3 weeks to get this prepared and have the project completed before school starts. The NYC Mayor's Fund only works on public

land. The hope is to get the board's approval before the summer recess. These soccer fields are open to the public after school hours. A letter of support from CB9 is needed. As per Chairman Himidian, this is a very popular program at P.S. 93. It is multi-faceted. This is an exercise program, comradery program, it is fully funded and very successful. Ifran Ahmed was invited to present at the General Board Meeting on the 21st. There is a curriculum to teach students how to play soccer, to talk about comradery and an anti-bullying program. There is no summer component at this moment. As per Chairman Himidian, motion to draft letter of support for the Parks Mayor's Fund for the Castle Hill Playground and the James M. Kiernan School. Motion was second by Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty and passed by all.

C. Friends of Soundview Park

- The 2018 festival will be July 18 in Soundview Park.
- There will be many activities. The letter for summer stage was submitted.
- In regards to the bike station Valerie states the commissioner will speak to the chief about it.
- Committee discussed the cricket field, Valerie states there isn't a spot yet. Bejai Mahadeo says couple years ago they voted for a spot in Soundview Park.
- Jaime Feliberty speaks about flyer from Nilka Martell, Founder and Director-G.I.V.E (Attached)
- Summer kick off even June 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday events throughout the summer

\*Jaime Feliberty announces he is resigning but will be staying on as advisor for board of Soundview Park.

**New Business**

- A. The Negron Family was present to request the renaming of Pugsley Park after their son, Christian Negron, who passed away three years ago next month. As per the family, in 2011 they lived two blocks away from YMCA so their son would walk through that park on his way home. Several years ago he was assaulted by several teens and hit on the head. He was able to identify his assailant before passing away 9 days later in the hospital. Due to the medical examiner not being able to identify the cause of death, the assailant was let go and actually stabbed someone else a few months after being released. As per the family, Call Stations were placed in Pugsley Park as a result of his death. Also, the fence was opened to allow for an exit as previously there was no alternative way of exiting the park. As per the family, Councilmember Diaz informed them he will proceed with the renaming with the condition of the approval of the community board. The park renaming would mean a great deal to the family.

As Chairman Himidian, there was a motion to approve getting information to rename Pugsley Creek Park to Christian Negron pending the stipulation on what time frame is necessary, whether it is a three year or five year waiting period. Motion was second by Sharon Fernandez and passed by the committee.

As per Chairman Himidian, it was suggested to the family that they should have an alternative to the park renaming, possibly an alternative street for renaming or dedicated bench, if the park renaming turns out to be impossible.

As per Valerie-Parks there are guidelines that need to be met for a Park to be renamed. She will get guidelines for Park's Sept agenda. As per Valerie, the agency commissioner is still working on revamping these guidelines and hopefully they should be ready by Sept.

### **DM Update**

- A. No date was promised for the opening of the Soundview Ferry, EDC states it will be late summer. EDC will have a meeting one month before that day with the community at the Shore Haven community facility, there will probably be about 200-300 attendees.
- B. Commonwealth cricket field was put in our budget priority. Parks Department listened and priced out 2 locations in Soundview Park the numbers are very high, about 16 million and 20 million. Other locations are being looked at, like the Pugsley Park area where field of dreams was.
- C. The Negron family is looking to name a portion of Pugsley Creek Park or the park after their son who passed away due to an incident at the park. Mr. Rivera (DM) states that he was told the renaming process is in reform. Valerie from parks states that the agency commissioner is reviewing the process and she will follow-up.

### **Announcements**

- A. Blackrock playground is being renovated
- B. Chairman Nicholas Himidian talked about the pool construction at 174<sup>th</sup> street playground and asked committee if there is any update on this? As for now there isn't an update. Chairman Himidian ask to find out an update.
- C. Chairman Himidian talked about the CB9 office having phone issues and ac issues because of the construction going on. Chairman Himidian also states CB9 is in the process of being renovated and office will move temporarily in a couple of weeks for the renovations.
- D. As per Chairman Himidian, regarding Committee Chair, Jaime Feliberty: "I would like to thank you for your service." Jaime has been exemplary. If you decide to return and not become a board member, you are more than welcomed to become a public member. On behalf of Community Board 9 thank you for all you've done.  
As per Joan Barnes, a lot has happened this year because of Jaime's efforts with Soundview Park.  
As per Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, he will miss everyone.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 pm.**

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

#### **OFFICE INFO**

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