



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2019

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Kwabena Gabay, Kevin Kiernan, Mitchell Halpern, Sharan Fernandez, Daniel Porro

Board Members Not Present: Abunoman Rahman, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, 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. NYC Parks, Noble Playground Reconstruction

Noble Playground is located between Bronx River Avenue and East 177th Street, just south of the Bronx Zoo. This reconstruction has a budget of 2.5 million dollars and is funded by Council District 18 (CM Diaz, Sr.) and is just under a half acre. The goal of the project is to create a safe and attractive entrance into the playground, provide upgraded play equipment and spray showers, provide adult fitness, and enhance and add to the environmental amenities of the site. Deck presented at meeting and attached to minutes.

As per resident, is there any equipment for autistic children?

As per Parks, there should be something for everyone and accessible elements are implemented in all playgrounds.

As per resident, where are the two entrances located now?

As per Parks, the entrance closer to the comfort station will be moved for safety reasons.

As per resident, the lowering of the fence is not a good idea because this site is already a hangout spot and residents need to consistently call the police. In addition, if noise complaints are regarding individuals inside the park, NYPD claims it is in PEP jurisdiction not theirs.

As per Chair Kwabena, he would like to speak to NYPD and PEP together to determine what can be done to rectify this concern

As per resident, there is a need for one or two speed humps at this location. Speed humps were denied previously.

As per Parks, this is a DOT concern. Possibly, the committee can make another request.

As per resident, there is a request to turn this site into a one way, a study is currently being conducted. As per committee, traffic should go down not up. Stop light on Rosedale was denied. As per Parks you can also request through DOT to narrow the end of the street so that drivers have to take that turn slower.

District Manager to visit Noble Park on Saturday, Chair Kwabena to make visit as well.

As per resident, there is an overwhelming number of adults loitering in the park at night.

As per Parks, adults are not allowed to be in the children area without being accompanied by a child, however, if the park has adult elements, they can be in this area.

As per Parks, the only fence that was lowered was along Noble Ave. Parks to determine if this park is on the list to be locked up at night. PEP Officers are very active and have a better response time because number of PEP Officers has increased but more PEP Officers are always needed. There are currently 40 officers for the entire borough.

As per Joan Barnes, since restrooms are closed early, there has been an increase of people using the park inappropriately to release themselves. In addition, there is an issue with the ball league here, they are the ones using the park inappropriately.

As per Parks, Kevin and Chris can help work out extending park facility hours. As per permits, the Commissioner takes these very seriously and is willing to remove permits at any time based on complaints.

As per BM Daniel Porro, regarding children in wheel chairs in playgrounds, is there a layout for passage. In addition, will there be a call box? Also, when does the lighting go on in the evening?

As per Parks there is an ADA accessible bridge that can go around and through the park. In regards to lighting, bulbs have been upgraded to LED lights to allow for more visibility at night for safety purposes. In regards to call boxes, there is not one allocated for this site. There is a pilot for call boxes at the moment and call boxes are only located in 4 parks where they are being tested. These include Starlight, Concrete Plant, Soundview and Pugsley Creek. They have been at these sites for one year so far. More data needs to be collected to see if it is a viable program going forward.

As per Parks, there was no space for a dog park at this location. In addition, the steps for ball field will be closed off. As per resident, this will be an issue because ball players will urinate and change closer to homes. As per Parks, A porta potty may be able to be placed here.

Park design is expected to be completed in Feb 2020, in addition, it takes a year for procurement and a year for construction.

Parks is hoping for support from the board. New signage that will be more legible will be placed in the park as well.

New Business

- A. Friends of Soundview Park is having their 10th Annual Soundview Park Art & Musical Festival on Sunday, Jun 23rd 10am-4pm, flyer distributed.

In addition, there will be 4 concerts in July in Soundview Park from Summer Stage, Thurs-Sun as a result of St. Mary's Park reconstruction.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:41 PM

Minutes drafted by CB9 Office Staff

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