



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

September 11, 2018

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sharan Fernandez, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Kwabena Gabay, 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.** Alex Salgado, Hank Greenberg Little League
This speaker was not present.
- B.** Llewellyn Forbes, JHS 125/562

Mr. Forbes is representing JHS 125 which recently merged with Middle School 562. Mr. Forbes is here to discuss the playground immediately behind the school building. He would like to know if the property behind the school is being considered for revitalization. Currently, it solely operated by the Parks Department, however, he would like to request a joint partnership with the school in maintaining this property. Mr. Forbes is interested in finding out if this property has already been tagged to be a revitalized property? If not, he would like to know how to go about tagging this site.

As per Walter Nestler, the first step for Mr. Forbes is to determine if there is a capital projects somewhere in the vicinity to improve this site, if not, then go to Land for Public Trust to discuss this site. As per Valerie O'Neil Davis, if Mr. Forbes can provide her with a location, she can reply via email tomorrow, then Mr. Forbes can return to the board with findings.

As per Mr. Forbes, his intention is for the school to use this space for recreational activities for the students in the school. Mr. Forbes will be back in October.

As per Chairman Himidian, Mr. Forbes should email pictures of the site in advance in addition to presenting pictures to the board when he returns in October. Additionally, in October, there will be a full board so that if there's a voting that needs to take place this can happen then.

As per Mr. Forbes, Reso A funding was suggested by the Borough President's Office in regards to funding for a possible project here.

New Business

- A. As per DM Rivera, CB9 is beginning to prepare for the 2020 District Needs Statement. It deals with every aspect of service delivery questions regarding every agency we interact with, ex. Parks, NYPD, DOB, etc. DM Rivera would like every committee to answer the overview question and all the other comprehensive items he can take care of. This is all currently online. As per DM Rivera, CB9's District Need Statement was revamped 3 years ago so the current process is a lot easier because it is just producing updates to what has already been created. This year Parks and Cultural and Community Facilities have been coupled. The question for Parks is: Please identify the most important Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities issue your district is facing. DM Rivera is asking for the committee to address this question as well as the entire board. At the upcoming Board Meeting DM Rivera will share last year's priorities. The due date for this is the end of October. The online program provides a few items to select as a priorities as a response to this question.

As per Joan Barnes, should we begin by separating these questions into the 3 categories described?

As per Chairman Himidian, Parks should discuss the Parks related question and the other items should be shared within its relevant committees.

As per DM Rivera, the problem is that this question is unfair because although there are 3 different items, it is one question with only one priority to be listed.

As per Chairman Himidian that is going to be a problem because there is no way that Libraries and Parks can be coupled.

As per DM Rivera, Parks can select items that relate to Parks only.

As per Chairman Himidian, Libraries can be shared with Youth & Education and items related to Land Use can be shared with Land & Zoning.

As per Walter Nestler, Quality of Parks and Parks Facilities seems to be the most encompassing response as a priority of the committee for the District Needs Statement.

As per Chairman Himidian, committee can also check "Other" and have 500 words to describe Parks Priority.

Committee agreed to select Quality of Parks and Parks Facilities. Chairman Himidian would like to explain the selection in 500 words so that the committee can share specifics regarding the different district parks.

As per Chairman Himidian this is due by the next Parks Meeting so his request is to ask committee members to please send Chairman Himidian their written responses for him to consolidate, present for a committee vote in October, and provide to the office for processing in time.

As per DM Rivera, one of the questions is regarding Parks buildings and access, last year Harding Parks was one of the parks in mind, Soundview Park as well. DM Rivera basically wants to know if there's anything that should be added because of lot of what's on here will be kept. As per DM Rivera, he doesn't need the answer now, however, he does want to provide the committee an opportunity to provide input. Committee should send DM Rivera what capital projects they think should be funded. If priorities need to be selected this can be done at the next Parks Committee Meeting.

As per Chairman Himidian, there can be back and forth conversations via email to avoid having a heavy agenda in October's meeting.

Walter Nestler, he would like to suggest to add Clason Point Park as a capital project to be more conducive for the ferry. As per DM Rivera, this will be noted.

As per DM Rivera, the lighting in Pugsley Creek Park has already been funded by Senator Klein. It was allocated a few years ago but that money can take time. As per Walter Nestler, the office should follow-up with Klein's Office to inquire about the status. As per DM Rivera, can Valerie from Parks follow-up on the status of lighting for Pugsley Creek Park, this is separate from the emergency call boxes.

DM Rivera will also still include the sidewalks along Pugsley Creek.

As per Soundview Park, there was a request for a BBQ section and a skate park. As per Chairman Himidian, does Parks have an update on this matter?

As per DM Rivera, some tables and BBQ pits have already been installed.

As per resident, the garbage cans along Lafayette Avenue beginning at Story Avenue are a host to raccoons and rodents. As per Valerie-Parks, raccoons are protected by state law, in addition, this location is near the BBQ pits.

As per DM Rivera in local meeting with Parks over the summer, Parks stated that they are in need of a 16 yard garbage truck and a grass cutting tractor. If residents see garbage bins overfilled residents can call 311 as well as contact CB9 so that it can be added to our service request.

As per DM Rivera, he is interested in knowing how much 2 seasonal PEP Enforcement Officers cost for Soundview Park? He would like to petition with elects for possible sponsorship.

As per DM Rivera the Parks Enforcement Contact is 646-613-1200. As per Valerie-Parks this is the central communication number. As a result, Valerie will follow-up regarding what is the appropriate number to call.

As per Walter Nestler, he would like to request this for Pugsley Creek/Clason Point Park.

As per DM Rivera there is a capital projects tracker on the Parks website.

Blackrock Park is being renovated and DM Rivera would like to discuss the possibility of renaming the Park after the EMT that was killed a few blocks from the park.

As per DM Rivera, he is to waiting to confirm the total number of ferry riders. There are still logistics to be worked out regarding the bus turnaround, entrance, and shelters. As per Walter Nestler, Bx39 bus does not provide service to the ferry. As per another resident, sometimes the BX27 bus does not go down to the ferry depending on timing. As per DM Rivera, he is requesting signage for busses only on the turnaround past the gate at Clason Point.

As per residents, a bus shelter and bathroom facilities are needed at the ferry location.

As per Joan Barnes and Chairman Himidian, there should be a separate Ferry Committee.

As per Chairman Himidian, the board should draft a letter requesting a shelter for the ferry.

Additionally, instead of a concession stand for a restaurant, a parking lot should be built here to alleviate the parking concern.

- B.** As per Chairman Himidian, he would like to put together an event, possibly a trip beginning with Clason Point possibly on a Saturday. Valerie-Parks will inquire about the possibility of securing a bus. Committee to send Chairman ideas of events for the year.

Chairman Himidian also welcomed the new Board members and ended the meeting with a 9/11 remembrance.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

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