



Chairman Nicholas Himidian Jr. & District Manager William Rivera

Parks Committee Meeting **Minutes**

February 13, 2018

Meeting Location: BRONX CB9 OFFICE

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Committee Chair Jaime Feliberty, Sharan Fernandez, Sarwar Jahan, Mohammed Mujumder, Chairman Nicholas Himidian

Board Members Absent: Kadesha Washington, Carla Singleton

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. Mohammed Mujumder, President of the Bangladesh-American Community Council was present to speak about the International Mother's Day Language Monument Proposal. As per Mr. Mujumder, in Bangladesh, people died to protect their language. "How would you feel if someone told you could not speak your language anymore?" This issue led to the independence of Bangladesh. International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by United Nations in 1999, February 21st is celebrated as International Mother Language Day even though it was established in Bangladesh. Mr. Mujumder is requesting installation of a symbol of International Mother's Day. He would like it on Union Port Rd in front of Chang Li Supermarket. Mr. Mujumder's presentation pledges to cover the expense of this installation and maintenance but is requesting the expedition of this request. On behalf of the Parks Dept, Patricia Ferguson will share this request with the Commissioner. There are a lot of different steps involved with this process. As per Chairman Himidan, also please note the 2013 timeframe on this request. The plaque will be in multi-language. The proposal is included in the packet that was distributed. The design is included in the packet as well. As per Chairman Himidian, it is essential to have as many languages that encompasses our district. Mr. Mujumder stated that other cities have already funded similar projects. As per Chairman Himidina, how do we go about getting a bench in a park in dedication of a person? As per Parks Representative, benches can be dedicated in any park selected depending on the need in that area. Board is looking to dedicate a bench to a board member's family member that is deceased. As per Park Rep, she will send CB9 all the information that was requested regarding this request. As per Chairman Himidian, dedicating benches in a park is ideal for fallen heroes as well since renaming streets and schools are a big ordeal and are expensive.

- B. Friends of Soundview Park is hosting their second family game night this Friday from 5-8pm. All are welcomed. Adults must be accompanied by a child and children by adults. Friends of Soundview Park will also be hosting volunteer maintenance days on Saturday March 3rd and Sunday, March 18th from 10am-12pm at the garden. Volunteers will be cleaning and getting garden ready for the Spring. On Sunday March 11th Art in the Park will be hosted at the Soundview Fieldhouse by Lucy Aponte. This events consists of arts with recyclables and will take place from 10-11:30am. All events will be posted on Friends of Soundview Park's FB page on the calendar.

Old Business

- A. Park Sub-Committee Meeting minutes were shared. Since Board Member Kadesha Washington was not in attendance, Parks Chair Jaime Feliberty opted to vote on suggestions for how to spend funding when BM Washington was present at the following meeting. Easter Egg Hunt may be an issue due to the time it takes to get Parks permits for events. As per Ms. Ferguson, if there's anything she can do to help expedite permits for events, she'd be willing to help. Since events are coming from committee they are welcomed. Chairman Himidian will follow-up with Parks Chair and Vice Chair on permits for possible Parks Committee Events in March or April. As per Joan Barnes, the Appreciation Breakfast for CB9 Park employees (around 30) was also an event that was discussed. As per Kevin Walker, Parks representative, a lunch would be most ideal and all employees will be invited to attend. As per Ms. Ferguson, Mr. Walker has been doing a phenomenal job and he is being recognized as well as the district by the City Parks Commissioner. As per Chairman Himidian, maybe CB9 can give a recognition to Mr. Walker and Parks employees as well? As per Chairman Himidian, Can Ms. Ferguson share a list with CB9 of Parks employees.

Announcements

- A. Bronx Speak Up on February 24th at Lehman College, Parks Chair will be in attendance. No one objected to table at committee but no one volunteered to attend either. As per Mr. Walter Nestler, he will be unable to attend this year. As per Parks Chair Feliberty, he will be present in representation of the New York Botanical Garden. As per Joan Barnes, if anyone from CB9 would like to attend in representation, they are welcomed to. As per Ms. Ferguson, literature in reference to canine waste and leashing your dog is very helpful. Also, Parks is putting up new doggy waste bags and areas of disposal throughout CB9 near fences and areas where people are known to walk their dogs.
- B. Grow Together 2018 will be taking place on March 31st from 8:30-4pm at BMCC. As per Chairman Himidian, does any of this work exist in Soundview Park? As per Parks Chair Feliberty, we can't because soil is contaminated but we can do beds instead. As per Ms. Ferguson, Concrete Plant Park did something similar with raised bed and replaced soil with Five Boroughs. As per Parks Chair Feliberty, this may be too big of a project for CB9 Parks Committee. NY Restoration is also willing to participate with this for Soundview but the work would be immense. As per Joan Barnes, she saw Concrete Plant improvements at City Water Day but she also noticed a lot of debris in the soil, bottle caps, etc. It appeared as though the soil was brought in contaminated. As per Ms. Ferguson, Concrete Plant Park is a part of CB 2. Starlight is no longer a part of CB9 either. Soundview Park may also be reassigned community board not necessarily for Community Board purposes but rather on Parks Maintenance end.
- As per Joan Barnes, City Council has a new committee, Committee of Parks and Recreation, which has 11 members, 4 of which are from the Bronx.
- As per Chairman Himidian, can we get a map with quantity and locations of all blue towers throughout CB9/Soundview park? As per Ms. Ferguson, this is definitely something that can shared.
- As per Walter Nestler, can we request report of call box calls.
- As per Chairman Himidian, tracking on call box calls to be put on next public safety agenda.

As per Walter Nestler, can we get an update on Soundview Ferry progress? As per Ms. Ferguson, if you can get me a list of questions I can try to get them answered for you. As per Walter Nestler, just give us the name of the capital contractor. As per Ms. Ferguson, it's Ms. Michelle Martell or Michael Ortiz oversee capital contractors.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Minutes created by CB9 Office Staff

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