



Donovan Richards
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Anatole Ashraf

Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert

District Manager

June 27th, 2024

Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Laura Shepard, Chair
Carlos Castell Croke, Vice Chair
Anatole Ashraf
Lauren Springer
Alexandra Gonzalez
Jolly Patel
Nellie Afshar

Absentee

Danielle Brecker
Warren Davis
Thomas Mituzas
Benjamin Lucas
Andie Olivares

Mariana Mogilevich, Public Member
Pearl Brady, Public Member

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert

Guests

Noel Gamboa, Little Manila Park Inc.
Adam Ganser, New Yorkers for Parks
Daniel Abram, New Yorkers for Parks

Laura Shepard, Chair of the CB2 Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Laura Shepard introduced Daniel Abram and Adam Ganser of New Yorkers for Parks.

- New Yorkers for Parks is an advocacy organization that advocates for parks and open space for all New Yorkers. They have been around for 100 years.
- They are working on updating and expanding the 2021 Open Space Profiles for CB2.
- There will be a conversation of the community district needs, new park ideas, park access ideas for bike lanes via greenways.
- New Yorkers for Parks is also interested in increasing the tree canopy in the district.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

- Daniel Abram went through his presentation with the committee checking on various green spaces, playgrounds, open streets, bike lanes and greenways, etc. and their locations and the status of them.
- Daniel Abrams stated the report should be coming out in the Fall 2024.
- New Yorkers for Parks is working with Cornell Tech with their Tree Folio NYC app to look at areas where trees can be planted and their impact on heating reduction.
- The Schoolyards to Playgrounds program is a Trust for Public Land program that opens schoolyards to be playgrounds after school hours for the community to use.
 - These programs are done through the Department of Education.
 - The maintenance is also shared and worked out with the Department of Education.
 - The challenge is the funding from the City for these projects.
- There was a discussion on new park ideas.
- Discussion on community gardens.

Laura Shepard introduced Noel Gamboa to discuss his presentation on a new park development.

- Noel Gamboa is the President of Little Manila Park Inc.
- Little Manila Park located at Roosevelt Avenue and 70th Street.
- Little Manila Park greenspace is located at the corner of 70th Street and 41st Avenue.
- The second greenspace is the Little Manila Triangle located at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 70th Street.
- Improved pedestrian conditions were the #1 issues for both Northern Blvd. and Roosevelt Avenue.
- They have reached out to community leaders and elected officials for support and have been working on this project since the pandemic.
- The park on 70th Street and 41st Avenue has been underutilized for 30 years.
- They consulted with NYS arborists to determine which trees should stay or be removed.
- The area would be open to the public and the area allows for performances.
- Information can be found at the website. www.littlemanilapark.com
- Noel Gamboa spoke about Little Manila Triangle located at 70th Street and Roosevelt Avenue.
- The vision for Little Manila Triangle is to have sculptures and murals in this area.
- Noel Gamboa is requesting a letter of support from the committee.

Discussion on local flooding will be tabled to the next meeting.

Short discussion on congestion pricing letter.

New Business:

Laura Shepard, Chair of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee made a motion to write a letter of support for the Little Manila Park proposal for its entirety to the elected officials and agencies. Carlos Castell Croke, Vice Chair seconded this motion.

The daily CO2 reading was not available for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber