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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

June 23rd, 2022

Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

this was a teleconference zoom meeting

Attendees

Frank Wu
Benjamin Lucas
Chhemang Lama
Tom Mituzas
Warren Davis
Lauren Springer

Absentee

Morry Galonoy
Laura Shepard (*excused*)
Karla Perez
Steven Raga
Anthony Tudela

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager

Guests

Frank Varro, NYC Parks
Diane Dreier, NYC Parks
Diane Ballek

Frank Wu welcomed everyone to the CB2 Environmental, Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

Frank Wu introduced NYC Parks to present the Blissville Park design and answer any general questions concerning parks in the CB2 district.

Frank Varro, NYC Parks presented the Blissville Veterans Memorial Flagpole redesign: (*presentation is attached*)

- The goals of this redesign are to:
 - Create a gathering space for the memorial and install a replacement flagpole
 - Improve accessibility to the site
 - Provide additional shade at the gathering space.
- The site is just East of Newtown Creek at the intersection of Review Avenue, Van Dam Street and Greenpoint Avenue

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

- Surrounding neighborhood is mainly industrial.
- This space is close to Calvary Cemetery
- A wooden bench, made by the community, will be placed at this location.
- NYC Parks will be looking into wheelchair accessibility to this plaza.
- Frank Varro presented the history and the different surrounding areas.
- At the scope meeting the community requested more seating.
- A question was asked to make the sidewalk around the Triangle larger, Frank Varro explained that they would be more of a NYC DOT matter.
- Frank Varro also stated that a CitiBike station would be getting installed at this location as well.
- Frank Varro discussed the design of the Memorial Flagpole area.
- The previous flagpole was destroyed in a hurricane and it took ten years for this redesign.
- A question was asked if a mold would take place of the Sgt. Kish plaque before it is removed? The parks department stated that extra care and a team of experts would be taking good care of the removal of the plaque.
- Tom Mituzas thanked the parks department for an outstanding job and thanked CB2 community leaders stating this is what can be done when a community comes together. It has been a long fight for ten years.
- A question was asked about flooding at that site. Frank Varro explained that the area is designed to hold the water for the plantings, and it is pitched to have water go into the site and not cause flooding as it is at a high elevation as well.
- The plantings that were picked for the site are the same as what was originally there. The NYC Parks Department know these plantings do well in this area. An adaptive non-invasive plant was suggested for this area. Plantings that work well with minimal input.
- This land belongs to the Department of Transportation; however, the Department of Parks has the responsibility of the maintenance of this area.
- The timeline plan from NYC Parks is to have this design completed in 2022, afterwards it will go into procurement which is a 8 to 10 month process as it goes through a legal process, then to the Mayor's office, then to a Contractors BID. After that construction may begin in the Fall of 2023.
- Tom Mituzas mentioned that since this project was on hold for ten years, he is asking for the construction of this project to be brought to the top of the list due to the long wait of ten years. He is asking our elected officials to continue to push for this to be completed in a timely fashion.
- Diane Dreier of NYC Parks expressed that they are from the capital team and are only the designers and will try their best to get it out of the design studio. Technically they have a full year in design but will work to complete sooner.
- Debra Markell Kleinert, CB2 District Manager mentioned that the benches should have arms so no one can sleep on them. The group agreed.
- Frank Wu asked about the Estimated Time on Parks projects.

- There is a link on the Parks website to trace park renovations.
- <https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/9575>
- <https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/10071>
- It was suggested that CB2 can reach out to Commissioner Dockett's office to get any updates.
- Debra Markell Kleinert informed the committee that CB2 is in the process of getting a new Parks Manager.
- Tom Mituzas made a motion that the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee support the design shared by the Department of Parks for the renovation of the Blissville Veterans Memorial Flagpole. Frank Wu seconded it. And none opposed.

A short discussion took place regarding Murray Park Dog Run and the funding for it. It was not in this groups preview.

Tom Mituzas announced Newtown Creek Alliance on June 25, 2022 will be doing a clean-up at the 29th Street bulkhead from 11am to 2pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Waber / Reviewed by Debra Markell Kleinert