



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Parks Committee Meeting: FMCP Meadow Lake Creek Connection
Quennell Rothschild and Partners
Date: Tuesday June 17, 2024
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members Present

Bhitihara Fulton, Wendy Gennaro, Saaif Alam and Jim Gallagher.

Board Members Absent

Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Dilip Nath, Frances Peterson and Caitlin Marziliano

Others Present

Anthony Sama, James Mituzas, Adrienne Weremchuk, Bryan Cantwell, Alex Sokol, Beth Franz, Adel Vaughn, Yolanda Gallagher and CB8 staff member, Nettie Norris.

Bhitihara Martha Fulton, Parks Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson Bhitihara asked that her team write down their questions and ask them at the end of the presentation.

Jim Mituzas gave an overview of the presentation about the “Of Destination Greenways” segment. Destination Greenways is a holistic greenway plan that goes throughout the entire borough of Queens. Most of the greenway is built already but is really worn. It used to be called the Brooklyn Queens Greenway. He designed it back in the early 2000’s. They are redoing a lot of the segments. A lot of the segments did not exist. This is one of them that didn’t. The planning for this began in 2020 along with Quennell Rothschild. They had many, many community meetings with over 500 people attending. The meetings were held, in person, at pop up events and via Zoom to solicit opinions from the community. The entire length of the greenway that is called “Destination Greenway” within Queens is 13 miles. This segment which we’re reviewing now is about 1 mile.

Chairperson Bhitihara asked **Ms. Beth Franz, Quennell Rothschild and Partners** to begin the presentation to the Parks Committee.

Ms. Franz started with an overview of the organization and what their main goals are.

- Design a safe and continuous greenway.
- Create separate bicycle and pedestrian circulation pathways.
- Utilize stormwater management solutions for frequent nuisance flooding.

- Include connection to existing and future greenway segments.
- Provide adequate lighting along the greenway route.

There were concerns from the last Zoom meeting regarding safety, flooding, slowing traffic speed (speed humps) and direction signs. These concerns are all a part of our plan.

Chairperson Bhitihara – is concerned about drainage. Would it not be better to uncover the creek and plant around it?

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) It would be great to do that but it's not in the scope of this project.

Saaif Alam – Has there been clean up in the pond area?

Answer: (Anthony Sama) – On occasion we do. We also work with the Boat House partners: Boat NY, Tasca etc. to organize and mitigate. The clean up in the water is a bit more technical so we can't use volunteers. We work with specialty groups.

Saaif Alam – Will the light fixtures in the park be replaced and if so, with what type of bulbs?

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) – Yes. Not sure yet.

Wendy Gennaro – Having been a runner, it's difficult to get from one point to another. The park is treacherous when guiding the disabled. The park is currently a total mess. There is no where to park, no where to walk/run. This plan is a great idea. Will everything in the park be uniform?

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) - This is a key segment because it connects the two – lakes and core area.

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) - Yes, it will be uniform. The current plan, along with future projects will be a great improvement.

Wendy Gennaro – Can we go back to see the entire 13 miles to see where the connectors are going to end up at?

Answer: (Beth Franz) -Yes.

- Meadow Lake
- The section that takes you to the central core
- Running along the perimeter
- You are connected to Flushing Meadow Corona Park, Kissena Park, Cunningham Park and Alley Pond Park. Willow Lake is at the Bottom.

A lot of the greenway is already there. This part will be a major connector.

Chairperson Bhitihara – On page 19 of the proposal, it shows the area under the bridge and along the highway. It is very dangerous looking. How will that be addressed?

Answer: (Beth Franz-QR) – We will be adding sidewalks, lighting, and new greens to that area. It needs a lot of attention.

Answer: (Anthony Sama) – The site will be restored. It is very dirty.

Jim Mituzas – A lot of that area will be included in future projects: Installation of timber rails and those mitigation curb lines will eliminate illegal parking and dumping of debris in the creek. Hopefully, this will help. Talk to your elected officials about these concerns.

Beth Franz-QR – DOT and Parks are coordinating the design of the signage. We don't know exactly where they will be.

Jim Mituzas – There was a presentation done where all the signs in Fresh Meadows Park were reviewed. We ran into some snags but are still working on it. The plan should be moving forward shortly.

Chairperson Bhitihara – Will there be signage around the park informing people where to go?

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) – Yes. We will be working with DOT to determine the locations. We will work to re-do all the signs.

Chairperson Bhitihara – This is a huge project. A lot of work has gone into the planning.

Jim Gallagher – What is the situation with the e-scooters? Can you look into the scooter locations in the park near the repair shop? Will there be scooter stations and will the repair shop remain?

Answer: (Jim Mituzas) We will look into the scooter situation.

Jim Gallagher – Nettie, can you please email the DOT presentation, regarding e-scooters, to Adrienne Weremchuk at the parks department?

Nettie V. Norris – Yes.

The members of the Parks Committee approved the presentation and will provide a letter of support for this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
June 24, 2024*