



**BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY BOARD #3**

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**Parks & Recreation and Environmental Committee
Public Hearing Report**

DATE: March 14, 2023

TIME: 7:00PM

IN PERSON: No

VIRTUAL: Yes

SPEAKER: Yes

Committee Members Present

Frank Morano, *Chairman of the Board*

Al Klingele, *Chair*

Dominick Ciccarelli

Engjell Lleshi

Nicole Nigro

Anthony Riccardelli

Committee Members Absent

Dianne Mattioli

Joseph O'Toole

Staff

Charlene Wagner, *District Manager*

Stacey Wertheim, *Community Coordinator*

Susan LaForgia, *Community Coordinator*

Guests

Gabriella Keller, NYC DPR, Capital Projects

Jordan Weber, NYC DPR, Capital Projects

Colleen Siuzdak, Administration Coordinator, DPR Borough of Staten Island

Griffin Fossella, Rep. Council Member David Carr

Carol Donovan, President, Richmondtown-Clarke Avenue Civic Association

Susan Conlon, Richmondtown-Clarke Avenue Civic Association

Public Contact Session

An area resident is requesting beach cleaning in Great Kills Park beach during the off-season. Parks will investigate and report back next month.

Agenda

NYC Parks & Recreation Capital Division presented plans for the reconstruction of Aesop Park, located next to P.S. 6 at the corner of Page and Bartow Avenues. The total budget is \$6.64M and was funded by Borough President Oddo, Borough President Fossella, Cm. Borelli, and Council Speaker Adams. The park is 0.95 acres.

Goals

- Enhance the environmental amenities of the site.
- Upgrade active play capacity for the park and neighborhood
- Facilitate passive use and community events.
- Incorporate existing custom site elements.
- Improve accessibility for all users.

Discussion

The Committee approved of the design features but was not in favor of replacing the existing 7' fence with a lower 4' fence on Bartow and Page Avenues. They feel it is a safety and security issue. Parks will revisit the plans. The new 4' fence plan was part of the 'Parks without Borders' initiative.

Whereas, NYC Parks Capital presented design plans for the reconstruction of Aesop Park at the Parks & Recreation and Environmental Committee Public Hearing, and

Whereas, The Committee approved of overall design features contingent upon retaining the 7' perimeter fence encircling the entire Park.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, Community Board 3 Parks & Recreation and Environmental Committee put forth a Motion to support the Aesop Park overall design provided the 7' perimeter fence remains.

VOTE: In favor 6; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Morano Y; Klingele Y; Ciccarelli Y; Lleshi Y; Nigro Y; Riccardelli Y

Old Business

- Parks provided an update to the increase in feral cats in the parks and their relation to the tick problem. Colleen spoke with the NYC Wildlife Unit. There is a team of researchers at Columbia University studying this exact issue. When she receives an update from them she will give a report to the Committee.
- Living Breakwaters – Construction continues on breakwaters D & E. Marine life including birds, fish, invertebrates, and even marine mammals is returning to the built portions of the breakwaters.
- NYC is working on new zoning regulations which will require B.E.S.S.(battery energy storage systems) to be allowed in industrial areas only.

New Business

- In order to comply with new 'Green' initiatives, the city has passed rules that are requiring buildings to make alterations that are very prohibitive.
- NYC Parks is hiring for the summer. Colleen will provide an informational flyer.
- There are reports of an odor coming from Fresh Kills Park along Richmond Avenue. Colleen will contact the administrator and report back next month.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert Klingele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Albert W. Klingele
Chairman, Parks & Recreation and Environmental Committee