

Pending Committee Approval - Draft
Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
February 24, 2021

Attendees

Committee: Debra Travis (Vice Chair), Bob Bender, Courtney Dastis-Galvin, David Gellman, Marvin Goodman, Robert Jacklosky, Herb Barrett (CCM)

Absent: Rosemary Ginty (Chair), Donell Leverett

DPR: Stephanie Thayer, VCP Deputy Administrator

Community: Barbara Eliades, Karl Appuhn

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

The minutes of the January 27, 2021 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Bailey Avenue Triangle – Update by District Manager

District Manager, Ciara Gannon, presented a summary of the work the community board office has been doing with community volunteers and agencies over the last few months to improve conditions at Bailey Triangle. There have been frequent complaints of dumping, weeds and littering. It is DOT property, but they claim they do not have the equipment or manpower to care for it and there is a long history of poor conditions at this triangle. There is a group of neighborhood volunteers who have been cleaning up the space on a monthly basis. To support them, the Parks Department has agreed, on a one-time basis, to completely clear the triangle of all overgrowth with the expectation that volunteers will care for it going forward. Due to the snow, it cannot be done immediately, but they expect that it will be done some time in March. The volunteers requested that the Parks cleanup is done when they are out there in order to coordinate. Parks would not be providing any future mowing.

Volunteers Barbara Eliades and Karl Appuhn gave some history of their care for the space. They asked for assistance from the city as they do not have a mower or a place to store one and the work is more than a monthly volunteer group can keep up with. They also put out a call for more volunteers. Ciara will be setting up a meeting with them and Partnership for Parks who may be able to assist with increasing their capacity and access to tools. Bob Bender suggested reaching out to the volunteers who care for Tibbetts Tail to see if they would be able to help and to consider Bailey Place and Tibbetts Tail for the Community Board It's My Park Day.

Preliminary Discussion of FY2023 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities

The committee reviewed the capital and expense priorities from FY2022. Combining Tibbetts Tail and Bailey Avenue Playground into one community park was integrated into the capital

improvements being considered for Bailey Avenue Playground. A discussion of Ewen Park erosion control was had and the committee will follow-up to see if there are more cost effective, natural ways to reduce runoff and potentially move this to the expense priorities. Deb Travis suggested that the sewer connection to the Mosholu Golf House might be a better priority for the Environment & Sanitation Committee and she will bring it to them at the next meeting. The fence along the Putnam Greenway was discussed and Stephanie Thayer said that the repair or replacement of the fence was the responsibility of the Van Cortlandt Golf House and would be part of the next concession permit renewal. Joe Magneri requested from Rosemary Ginty that a Holland Tractor with Flail Unit be added to the priorities. David Gellman asked which parks it would be used for. Stephanie Thayer said Van Cortlandt Park did not need any additional mowers or mini-packers, but that a large, 16 yard, packer would be very useful. Herb Barrett said that updates or improvements to Memorial Grove were overdue.

New Business

Parks Department - Stephanie Thayer reminded the group that Bronx Park SpeakUP! is Saturday, February 27th, starting at 10am. She also reported the good news that the Parks Department is planning to hire the full number of seasonal staff for the summer.

Seton Park Skate Park – The Parks Department held a community meeting February 23rd presenting the conceptual design for the skate park project in Seton Park. Bob Bender attended. Deb Travis and David Gellman noted that neither were aware that it was happening and questioned the outreach efforts. It was noted that it was unclear why the presentation wasn't held at the committee meeting if there was new information to be shared.

Stewards of Brust Park - Patsy Smyth spoke at the beginning of the meeting to let the public know that Stewards of Brust Park will be active this spring.

Memorial Grove - Herb Barrett wanted to remind the public that this year marks 80 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Old Business

It's My Park Day - The committee discussed an It's My Park Day at Bailey Triangle in the spring. It was agreed that it would like to support the volunteer's efforts and that the event might help by recruiting more volunteers.

Irving Latimer Awards – Vice Chair reminded the group to think of candidates for this service award.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Draft Submitted by Debra Travis