

DRAFT Pending Committee Approval
Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Meeting held January 27, 2021 Via Zoom

Attendees

Committee: Rosemary Ginty (Chair), Debra Travis (Vice Chair), Bob Bender, Courtney Dastis-Galvin, David Gellman, Robert Jacklosky, Donell Leverett, Herb Barrett (CCM)

Absent: Marvin Goodman

Other CB8: none

Elected Officials: Angela Conley – Senator Biaggi

DPR: Bronx Commissioner Iris Rodriguez – Rosa, Joseph Magneri (DPR), Stephanie Thayer (VCP Alliance), Christina Taylor (VCP Alliance), Stephanie Ehrlich (VCP Alliance), Michael Ortiz (DPR), Tara Valenta (DPR), Judi Raymund (DPR), Kirsten Myhr (DPR), Pilar Maschi (Partnership for Parks)

Community: Janie Lerner, Amy Schimmel, Ann Shulman, Danielle Guggenheim, IC Engel, Craig Sachs, Mariana Miller-D’Alessandro, Miriam Gomez, Osiris Stephen, Shajada Brown, Tara Valenta, Thalita Mercado

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:10am

The minutes of the December 1st, 2020 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

Strong Street Playground Conceptual Design Plan -- Parks Department Presentation

\$3 million in funding has been approved to update this 0.4 acre playground. Judi Raymund, the landscape architect, presented the Conceptual Design which was formed based on community input during a scoping session in October. Issues to be addressed include: flooding, outdated and buckling asphalt, poor perimeter condition and outdated equipment. The Parks Department is also considering expanding the sidewalk along Reservoir Avenue in front of the park. The committee asked that the design retain or incorporate the existing cobblestone pavers if possible. One tree has been found to be in poor condition and will be removed. Construction is expected to begin summer, 2020. The Parks Department will return in the spring with a schematic design containing the full details such as colors, furnishings, etc.

Exercise Equipment in Van Cortlandt Park Conceptual Design Plan -- Parks Department Presentation

\$1.475 million in funding has been approved to add exercise equipment to Classic Playground in Van Cortlandt Park, near Amalgamated Housing. This equipment was requested by the community during Participatory Budgeting. Kirsten Myhr, landscape architect, presented the Conceptual Design to reduce the size of the handball court and add an exercise area with exercise equipment appropriate to all ages. The committee appreciated the activation of this under-utilized corner of the park. The Parks Department will return in the spring with a schematic design containing the full details such as colors, furnishings, etc.

New Business

FY 2022 Capital and Expense Budget Items

The Office of Management and Budget has issued its responses to Community Board 8 FY 2022 Budget Requests. See attachment for Parks Committee budgetary priorities and their OMB response.

It's My Park Day

The Parks Committee is reviewing options for hosting its annual It's My Park Day. Date TBD.

Old Business

ATV/electric bicycle issue on Putnam Trail in Van Cortlandt Park

Committee Chair Rosemary Ginty, Director Stephanie Ehrlich, Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa and Board Chair Laura Spalter met to discuss how best to address illegal high-speed ATV and electric bicycle use on the Putnam Trail. The Van Cortlandt Alliance is currently deploying boulders, fencing and signage to limit vehicular access to the trail and inform violators of penalties. They are also coordinating with the Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers and the 50th Precinct to improve enforcement and confiscation of property.

Seton Park Dog Run

Janie Lerner, a community member, requested additional information regarding money that Councilman Cohen had told her was allocated for improvements to the Seton Park Dog Run. Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa stated that as that project was scoped, an agreement was made to move the funds to another project in the district that was over budget in order to direct the funds locally. The Commissioner has a meeting scheduled with Ms. Lerner in February to discuss her concerns regarding conditions at the dog run.

Update on Volunteer Activities in Van Cortlandt Park

Christina Talyor, Director of Programs and Operations, Van Cortlandt Alliance invited the public to participate in the many volunteer projects that are planned in Van Cortlandt Park this winter. Please go to www.vancortlandt.org for details.

Bronx Parks Speak Up!

The 27th Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up! will be held virtually this year on the last Saturday in February. More details will be provided soon at bronxspeakup.org.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm

Prepared by Debra Travis, Vice Chair; Submitted by Rosemary Ginty, Chair

Capital / Expense Item	Description	Park Served	Neighborhood Served	2022 Board Priority	2022 Agency Response	2022 Committee Response to Agency Response
Capital	Redesign and reconstruction of Bailey Avenue playground: Reduce paving and introduce green space, update equipment, and repair deteriorated drains.	Bailey Avenue Playground	Kingsbridge	9	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
Capital	Erosion control measures in Ewen Park to prevent runoff downhill toward Riverdale Avenue.	Ewen Park	Spuyten Duyvil	15	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	This is an important infrastructure need and should be funded as a repair
Capital	Reconstruction of the Pond Wall at Spuyten Duyvil Park to prevent water run off onto the roadway in the parking lot of the Metro North station.	Spuyten Duyvil Park	Spuyten Duyvil	20	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	This is an important infrastructure need and should be funded as a repair
Capital	Fully fund repair of footbridge over Tibbetts Brook outside fence around golf course in Van Cortlandt Park. [Bronx CB8 acknowledges that this project is partially funded.]	Van Cortlandt Park	Riverdale	23	This is a DPR project with prior, current and/or future year expected funding commitments. Contact the agency for specifics	
Capital	Install sewer connection to street sewer at former Mosholu Golf House in Van Cortlandt Park so that property can receive a C of O and become a new park HQ building.	Van Cortlandt Park	District - Wide	24	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	This is an important infrastructure need and should be funded as a repair
Capital	Renovation of Van Cortlandt Park Stadium	Van Cortlandt Park	Riverdale	27	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
Capital	Improvements to Washington's Walk, including new benches, replacing temporary fencing with wrought-iron fence and repair of adjacent sidewalk	Washington's Walk	Kingsbridge Heights	29	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
Expense	Gardeners and other personnel sufficient for proper maintenance in CB 8 parks, including lawns, landscaped areas, and Greenstreets.	District - Wide	District - Wide	2	The agency recommends funding this expense budget requests in FY 2022, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain	
Expense	Purchase of packer for Van Cortlandt and mini- packer for neighborhood parks to replace aging equipment and aid in maintaining clean parks	District - Wide	District - Wide	6	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
Expense	PEP personnel to alleviate chronic double-parking on Broadway adjacent to Van Cortlandt Park Parade Grounds, especially bicycle-mounted officers, operating in conjunction with NYPD, particularly on weekends and times of high use, and to enforce regulations in other CB8 parks.	Van Cortlandt Park	Riverdale	13	The agency recommends funding this expense budget requests in FY 2022, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain	
Expense	Purchase of new crew-cab pickup truck with a lift-gate to replace aging vehicles in CB 8 neighborhood parks	District - Wide	District - Wide	18	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
Expense	Purchase of ToolCat with plow and cutting attachments to aid in maintenance of CB 8 parks	District - Wide	District - Wide	23	Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member	
	The construction of a comfort station at West 260th Street in Van Cortlandt Park	Van Cortlandt Park	North Riverdale	Missing	Missing from 2022 Budget Register	Please add to priorities and provide response