

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD FEBRUARY 22ND, 2012 AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

Attendees

Bob Bender	Committee Chair
Laura Spalter	Committee Vice Chair
Steven Balicer	CB8
Tom C. Durham	CB8
Bob Fanuzzi	CB8
Amy Moore	CB8
Anthony Piscitelli	CB8
Robert Press	CB8
Herb Barret	VCP Memorial Grove
Frieda Barret	VCP Memorial Grove
Lawrence Moiatto	VCP Memorial Grove
Don Tannen	VCP Memorial Grove
Lillian Tannen	VCP Memorial Grove
Christina Taylor	Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
I-C L'Engel	Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
Suzanne Corber	Save the Putnam Trail
Miawling Lam	Riverdale Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Agenda

Old Business:

Chair Bob Bender mentioned recent progress at the Memorial Grove. The replacement plaques have received approval and installation is expected to begin shortly. The fence rail remains to be installed as well. Commissioner Hector Aponte said that he hopes the work will be done by April.

Herb Barret expressed concern that the grading of the site has not been done yet.

The Chair stated that the committee will remain vigilant and will monitor progress.

The Chair mentioned that the Bronx Parks Speak-Up takes place on Saturday, February, 25. *(Committee members Bob Bender, Laura Spalter, and Bob Press attended, as did CB8 T&T Chair Dan Padernacht.)*

There was discussion of the proposed skateboard park in VCP. The Chair mentioned a recent communication from VCP Administrator, Margot Perron, in which Commissioner Aponte urged that CB8 identify private funding sources to develop plans for the skateboard park and reduce the usual time period for initiating and installing a new park. The skateboard park will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Parks Department, and liability will be at the users' risk.

A sub-committee was established to investigate the skateboard question. Members are Tom Durham, Bob Bender, Laura Spalter, Christina Taylor, and Steve Balicer. A chair will be chosen for this sub-committee.

The status of the Ft. Independence Park/Jerome Park Reservoir project was discussed. CB8 chair Bob Fanuzzi explained that the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee decided to approve DEP plans to remove trees on a slope above an earthen dam at the reservoir and to cut down trees growing out of the reservoir wall. This approval will allow DEP to take its plan to the Public Design Commission (PDC) and Parks to take the renovation project to the PDC as well. Although all who saw the DEP plans for tree removal remain concerned that the tree removal on the slope could exacerbate the drainage problem in contiguous Ft. Independence Park, the CFMC did not want to delay the renovation project further.

Suzanne Corber of Save the Putnam Trail voiced her objection to the plan to pave the trail and urged that the committee recommend a rock dust surface. The Chair explained that the committee and the board have approved DPR's plan to pave the trail. The Chair also mentioned a meeting in Councilman Koppell's office last October at which the rock dust surface was discussed. DPR's representative on ADA requirements said that the rock dust surface would not meet ADA requirements. Lack of maintenance in VCP is a major consideration.

New Business:

The committee turned its attention to "It's My Park Day." Last year Vinmont Park in North Riverdale was the focus of this community outreach. This year all agreed that Fort Four Park in Kingsbridge Heights would be a good location for the committee's efforts. Outreach to the community has begun with contact to Al Chapman of the Kingsbridge Heights Improvement Association and Kristin Hart of the Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association, both of whom approved the location enthusiastically. It was agreed that Our Lady of Angels parish, which abuts the park, should be contacted. Other organizations that might help were mentioned. A sub-committee was established, consisting of Laura Spalter as chair, and Herb Barret, Bob Bender, Bob Press, and Bob Fanuzzi.

The Chair mentioned that he has contacted Ice Rink Events about sending a representative to a future committee meeting to discuss questions about the VCP ice rink. He also mentioned that he will work with the Law, Rules, and Ethics Committee

and with Councilman Koppell's office to try to change the community notification for major new franchises and concessions from 15 days to 30 days.

The Chair mentioned DPR's "Green Thumb" project, which turns vacant land into community gardens. DPR has said that it cannot maintain any additional parkland in CB8 and so these community gardens would have to be sustained by local groups. CB8 Chair Bob Fanuzzi plans to attend a Green Thumb conference on March 31 at Hostos College and will report on it.

The Chair noted that this is the 40th anniversary of BCEQ and congratulated Mr. L'Engel on the organization's contribution to the Bronx.

Riverfest will be held on June 24 and organizers are seeking contributions and volunteers: www.riverdaleriverfest.org. The purpose of the Riverfest is to highlight access to the Hudson River and build support for the Hudson River Greenway in the CB8 area.

Christina Taylor mentioned that there is progress on the pedestrian bridge that was required under the original Memo of Understanding for the filtration plant. FVCP is urging community members to sign a petition for funding of the pedestrian bridge at the FVCP website: www.vancortlandt.org.

The committee unanimously passed a resolution at its May 26, 2010 meeting affirming a resolution passed by the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting of May 20, 2010 calling on the City to fund the pedestrian bridge. The committee resolution was approved unanimously at the June 8, 2010 community board meeting.

Ms. Taylor also mentioned FVCP's April 28 Hike-a-Thon and encouraged participation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Bob Bender
Chair
Parks & Recreation Committee