

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX  
MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
HELD MAY 23rd, 2012 AT THE VAN CORTLANDT PARK STADIUM**

**Attendees**

CB8: Bob Bender (chair), Steve Balicer, Tom Durham, Marvin Goodman, Robert Press, Laura Spalter (vice chair), Amy Moore, Dan Padernacht

DPR: Margot Perron, Andrea Vannelli

VCP Ice Rink: Marjorie Hann, Ron Kraut

Other committee members: Herb Barret, Memorial Grove; Christina Taylor, FVCP

Other: I-C Lengel, BCEQ; Tracy Shelton (KRVCDC), Det. Luis Rodriguez, Auxillary Captain Molina; Andrew Sandler, Councilman Koppell's office; Miawling Lam, Riverdale Review.

**Agenda**

1. Van Cortlandt Ice Rink

- A. The committee moved from the locker room at the VCP Stadium to the site of the ice rink to conduct the first portion of the meeting.
- B. The ice rink will be open to the public roughly from 12PM to 10PM, from late November to mid March. Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink will be the concessionaire. Committee members asked questions concerning safety, fees, crowd logistics, noise, lighting, food, rest room, skating sessions, advertising and sponsor involvement, electric & water billings, ice maintenance, lessons, rental & skate maintenance and repairs. The NYPD representatives at the meeting raised questions and responded to others, particularly concerning security in the vicinity of the ice rink.

Mr. Kraut observed that at other venues operated by Ice Rink Events, parents are happy to know that their children are skating because they know where they are, and crime at the rink itself is low because everyone is visible from the street.

- C. One big issue was a car drop off/ pick-up zone that would not impede northbound traffic on Broadway. There is a 15ft. curb cut that DPR maintenance vehicles use to enter the stadium at the location of the ice rink and just north of that curb cut is a fire hydrant. Together the driveway and the hydrant allow for a total of 45ft. where two vehicles can pull in to drop off or pick up skaters. No parking spaces will be sacrificed. This area can only be used for drop offs and pick ups, not for standing. The 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct will not ticket vehicles that act accordingly.

2. Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan

Ms. Andrea Vannelli of DPR provided a follow up presentation on the VCP master plan which was first unveiled in April, 2012. The designers will be meeting with 27 park user groups such as hikers, birders, runners, cyclists, field users, sporting leagues and the three neighboring community

boards for their input about how the park can be improved. Large maps of the park were distributed through out the venue and those in attendance offered suggestions for improvements to VCP. DPR will be conducting meetings all summer long. Anyone can participate by going to the DPR website and searching for the VCP master plan.

### 3. Chairman's Report

The chairman asked if the committee members were satisfied with the budget priority recommendations he will present to the board. The present members agreed that no changes were needed.

The chairman also announced the completion of the Memorial Grove.

### 4. New Business

The Chairman addressed the proposed new law banning gas power leaf blowers in NYC. The committee discussed this in detail with some voicing strong opinions against the noise and air pollution while others wondered about the cost of labor to rake leaves by hand. This law would impact the DPR because of the many open acres it has to maintain. Some areas do not have access to electricity and would require leaf blowers with battery power. It is unknown how long the batteries last.

The Chairman recommending waiting until DPR takes a position on this issue before taking action. The Committee agreed with the advice of the chair.

The Friends of VCP will celebrate the Seven Wonders of Van Cortlandt Park on Wednesday June 6, 2012 at 6:30PM. Meet at the VCP House Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Submitted by,

Thomas C. Durham, Committee Member  
Parks & Recreation Committee