

DRAFT
PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

Attendees –

Committee: Rosemary Ginty (chair), Bob Bender, David Gellman, Rob Jacklosky, Donell Leverett, Debra Travis, Herb Barret (CCM) Absent: Marvin Goodman,

Other CB8: Laura Spalter; Omar Murray, Margaret Donato, Dan Padernacht

DPR: Iris Rodriguez-Rosa (Borough Commissioner), Michael Ortiz, Joseph Magneri, Elizabeth Masella,

Community: Janie Lerner, Laura Roumanos, Calder Orr, Justin Sanchez, Pat Hill (Councilman Cohen's office); Alex Mitchell (amNY), Jed Green, Ellen Brys, Melanie Wacker, Ann Walle, Jacki Fischer

Agenda --

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes of the May 27th committee meeting were unanimously approved.

The chair welcomed the Borough Commissioner, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa and thanked her for taking the time to join the committee meeting and give an update on the effects of the adopted FY 21 budget on operations. DPR's expense budget is being reduced by \$84 million. These decreases will result in the loss of 1700 seasonal workers, 250 in the Bronx. The Parks Opportunity Program (POP) is now volunteer only. The operations of the department are affected significantly at a time that parks are heavily used.

Michael Ortiz presented the capital budget projects list (funding, design, procurement & construction phases). Some projects were completed, others in design. Those in the procurement phase are under consideration by OMB. The Birding Bridge project is under review to lower the construction cost. The Seton Park soccer field was rehabilitated inhouse without need for capital funding. The bridge over the Major Deegan is a DDC project and therefore not on the capital project list. The list is attached to these minutes.

The chair reported numerous calls over the summer about prohibited activities in Washington Walk and the area of VCP near West 261st St. Complaints were illegal barbecuing, littering, dumping hot charcoals on tree roots, loud music after midnight, and use of the woods as a bathroom. These complaints have become annual events. The chairs of Parks & Public Safety Committees, the Parks Borough Commissioner, her PEP officers, the 50th Precinct, elected officials and the district manager worked on these issues and resolved them to some extent. The district manager will monitor future complaints.

CCM Herb Barret reported on conditions at the Memorial Grove in VCP highlighting a need for better signage, maintenance and plantings. Borough Commissioner Rodriguez offered to discuss the plantings with Herb Barret and her Horticulture Director. A suggestion was made to contact Manhattan College for a volunteer clean-up group in advance of a permitted Veteran's Day event on November 8th.

Resident Janie Lerner spoke about the conditions at the Seton Park Dog Run urging that improvements be made to the fencing, gate locks, pruning, benches, and ground conditions and covering. Manager Joe Magneri offered to visit the site with Ms. Lerner and look at the specific issues. The Borough Commissioner will see how improvements can be made to improve the situation. A site visit will be arranged.

Bob Bender spoke about the Special Committee on Racial Equity draft report. Standing committees should look at their expense and capital budget requests to see if they represent various neighborhoods and question if there is something the committee can do to address racial equity in the community board. The Enslaved People's Project, which was funded by the community board, is an example of such an effort. He pointed out that comments on the draft report are due by week's end.

The chair asked for committee member suggestions for projects and directions the committee might take in the coming board year. Supporting local clean-up efforts and attempts at forming "friends" groups are encouraged. A suggestion to improve "311" reporting of park problems was made. A better system to identify locations without addresses is needed.

Ellen Brys from Save Brust Park asked for a response to their request for a ULURP application from Parks to acquire part of the paper street and to their FOIL requests. The Borough Commissioner stated that acquisition issues are decided in the Arsenal but they already struggle to handle existing park land. FOIL has time limits for responses which will be met. In response to whether Parks will allow construction mobilization in Brust Park, the Borough Commissioner said she is not interested in the park being used for that purpose.

Senior Parks Arts staff, Elizabeth Masella reported a new VCP exhibit from THE POINT, Bronx. This is a city-wide effort to bring the work of young photographers to the public. The photography exhibit is currently on the VCP fence adjacent to the stadium through November.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Rosemary Ginty

NYC Parks Bronx Capital Project Status Updates Bronx Community Board 8

Updated 9/22/2020 by Bronx Capital Projects

Contract Status	Short Description	CB	CD	District	Status	Total Project Funding Amount	Current Funding Breakdown
Completed	Van Cortlandt Park Broadway Entrance Reconstruction	7, 8, 12	11	13	Construction completed June 2020.	\$5,945,000	\$5.945m Mayoral PWOB.
Completed	Van Cortlandt Park Playground Construction	7, 8, 12	11	13	Construction completed in July 2020.	\$3,019,000	\$1.260m Mayoral; \$1.259m CC; \$500k ST (Sen. Klein-DASNY).
Completed	Van Cortlandt Park Skate Park Construction	7, 8, 12	11	13	Construction completed in August 2020.	\$1,178,000	\$178k Mayoral; \$1m CC (Koeppell).
Construction	Van Cortlandt Park Putnam Greenway Construction (Forestry/NRG)	7, 8, 12	11	13	Tropical Storm Isaias caused significant damage to the project site. Anticipated construction completion October 2020.	\$4,254,000	\$2.6999m Mayoral; \$250k CC \$1.305m FED.
Construction	Van Cortlandt Park Indian Fields Ballfields Reconstruction	7, 8, 12	11	13	Construction was temporarily shut down due to COVID-19, but restarted in June 2020. Anticipated construction completion November 2020.	\$2,500,000	\$1.5m CC; \$1m ST (Sen. Klein- DASNY).
Procurement	Woodlawn Playground Spray Shower Reconstruction	7, 8, 12	11	13	Contract award pending.	\$1,002,000	\$77k Mayoral; \$425k CC; \$500k BP.
Procurement	Ewen Park Adult Fitness Equipment Construction	8	11	8	Scheduling of bid date on hold due to COVID-19.	\$801,000	\$801k CC.
Procurement	Van Cortlandt Park Greenhouse Reconstruction (Architecture)	7, 8, 12	11	13	Bids rejected in June 2020 and project will be rebid. Schedule for rebid to be determined.	\$9,005,000	\$3.005m Croton; \$6m Mayoral.
Procurement	Washington's Walk Fort Four Playground Comfort Station Construction	8	14	8	Project is in initial stages of procurement.	\$3,620,000	\$1.6m Mayoral; \$1.52m CC; \$500k BP.
Procurement	Woodlawn Playground Comfort Station Reconstruction	7,8,12	11	13	Project is in initial stages of procurement.	\$1,579,000	\$1.554m Mayoral; \$25k CC
Proposed	Classic Playground Fitness Equipment Installation	7, 8, 12	11	13	Scope meeting/ design start pending.	\$1,475,000	\$950k CC; \$525k BP.
Proposed	Washington's Walk Strong Street Playground Reconstruction	8	14	8	Scope meeting/ design start pending.	\$3,040,000	\$2.54m CC; \$500k BP.
Proposed	Seton Park Adult Fitness and Skate Park Construction	8	11	8	Design start pending.	\$4,100,000	\$2.260m CC; \$1.63m BP; \$210k ST DASNY (Pending)
Proposed	Woodlawn Playground Reconstruction	7, 8, 12	11	13	FY21 addition. Design start date to be determined.	\$4,700,000	\$4.7m CC.
Plan	Van Cortlandt Park Birding Bridge Reconstruction (Engineering)	7, 8, 12	11	13	Project is underfunded.	\$543,000	\$543k ST (Sen. Klein/ Sen. Biaggi- DASNY)
Proposed	Putnam Trail Right-of-Way Acquisition (Parks Planning)	8	11	8	Project underfunded. Estimated cost of acquisition is approximately \$10.0m. Parks included \$4.23M for this project in its FY21 April Plan. No new funding was allocated in the Adopted FY21 Capital Budget for this acquisition, so it remains on hold.	\$5,186,000	\$716k Croton Program; \$4.47m Mayoral (General).