

Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting, November 29, 2017
Manhattan College School of Engineering, 3825 Corlear Ave., Room 215

Attendees:

Committee: Bob Bender (chair), Eric Bell, David Gellman, Daris B. Jackson, Tao Moran, Laura Spalter (all CB8); Herb Barret, Christina Taylor (community committee members)

Absent: Robert Fanuzzi, Marvin Goodman

Other CB8: Rosemary Ginty, Dan Padernacht

DPR: Bronx Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Tony Rosa, Albert Ayala, Leenda Bonilla

Elected and other officials: Councilman Andrew Cohen, Daniel Johnson (Councilman Cohen's office), Deputy Inspector Terrence O'Toole, P.O. Venture (50th Precinct)

In addition 21 members of the public attended. Names are on file in the Community Board office.

Agenda:

The meeting began at approximately 7:15 pm.

This meeting was a public forum dedicated to the topic "How to Start – and Sustain – a 'Friends of' Park Group."

Introductory remarks were made by Councilman Cohen and Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa. Both stressed the importance of community involvement in maintaining and beautifying the parks.

A panel of four people who are involved in local parks groups spoke. In order, they were:

Christina Taylor, executive director of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, discussed FVCP's origins and its past and current programs, as well as fundraising.

Debra Travis, founder of Jerome Park Friends and Neighbors, discussed starting her group and its work at Fort Independence Park in this its first year, as well as her future aspirations.

Daniel Reynolds, founder of the Stewards of Henry Hudson Park, discussed that group's recent and current projects and explained how his group has successfully reached out to others in the community to assist in its work in the park. He also previewed next year's projects.

Leenda Bonilla, local coordinator of the Partnership for Parks, a division of the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR), explained the resources PfP can provide to local parks groups. In addition she identified other groups that support the efforts of "friends" and other parks volunteers.

Each speaker made a PowerPoint presentation.

Following the presentations, which took approximately 45 minutes, questions were invited from the public, and the panelists answered them.

Note: The event was recorded by BronxNet and will be aired at a future date. The full program will be made available on the BronxNet website and on the Community Board 8 website.

Other Business:

Minutes of the October meeting were approved unanimously.

The December meeting date is tentative. At present there is no business that requires the committee to meet. Should that change in time for sufficient notice, the committee will meet on December 27.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9 pm.

Bob Bender
Chair
Parks & Recreation Committee