

February 1, 2005

**Minutes from Community Board #8
Parks & Recreation Committee
Thursday, January 27, 2005, 8:00pm**

Participants: Adam Thornbrough, Deborah Blaiberg, Tim Wensksz, Bill Johnson, E. A. Dennison, Jodie Colon, John Herrold, Anne Hunter, Jay Horowitz, Michael Grattan, Ari Hoffnung.

Introduction of John Herrold, new Administrator for Van Cortlandt Park

The Committee welcomed John Herrold as the new Administrator of Van Cortlandt Park. John spoke about his background in the Parks Department and his vision for Van Cortlandt Park. He was asked about the impact of the filtration plant construction on the local community as well as the double parking problem on Broadway. John will participate in the Committee's next meeting which will be dedicated to the issue of double parking.

Wave Hill's Maintenance of Riverdale Park

Bill Johnson raised two main issues pertaining to Riverdale Park. The first is why Wave Hill focuses the bulk of their efforts on maintaining Riverdale Park when there are so many other local parks in need of maintenance. The second issue was regarding the Park Department's strategy to eliminate "invasive" plants in Riverdale Park.

Anne Hunter (Wave Hill) explained that Wave Hill had a maintenance agreement with the Parks Department to take care of Riverdale Park. She explained that the proximity of the park to Wave Hill made it an ideal location to train their summer interns. Anne also told the Committee that Wave Hill does partner with several other Bronx parks during the summer months. Wave Hill agreed to explore the possibility of implementing weed composting strategies to help reduce the impact of cut weeds on the trails used by walkers.

The Parks Department explained their strategy of eliminating "invasive" plants as a long term strategy that is necessary to preserve Riverdale Park for future generations. Adam Thornbrough (Forester) believes that the park will require five more years of work to eliminate the invasive plants. Bill Johnson, however, regards some of the plants the Parks Department considers "invasive" as beautiful plants that should remain in the park.

Park Department's Maintenance of West 238th Park (between Independence Avenue and Blackstone)

Deborah Blaiberg, a resident of West 238th Street, complained about the lack of maintenance of the 238th Street Park.

Michael Grattan (Parks Department) informed the Committee that the Parks' property database does not show this property as one that belongs to the Parks Department. The Parks Department believes the property belongs to the Department of Transportation. The Committee will follow up with the Department of Transportation.

Submitted by,

Ari Hoffnung
Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Committee

Ah:db