

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD NOVEMBER 26, 2008**  
**AT THE COMMUNITY BOARD 8 OFFICE**

**PRESENT**

Robert Bender  
Thomas Durham  
Ari Goldman  
James Plaza  
Evelyn Tossas Tucker  
Herb Barret  
Margot Perron

**AFFILIATION**

CB #8 Committee Chair  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8 Committee Vice Chair  
Memorial Grove  
Administrator, Van Cortlandt Park

The meeting convened at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

**Old Business:**

The Fort Independence Park dog run will be discussed at the January meeting, at the request of Rebecca Patt, who was unable to attend the November meeting.

Vinmont Park (Sid Augarten ballfield) erosion mitigation project continues and appears to be nearing its conclusion, approximately one month behind schedule.

**New Business:**

The Memorial Grove scope meeting was held on November 21. Bob Bender, Herb Barret, and Margot Perron all described it as a good meeting, where ideas were exchanged. The Memorial Grove will be landscaped in a way that will mark its separate identity. The commemorative markers will be restored. Herb Barret spoke about the Veterans' Day ceremony at the Grove.

Immediately following the VCP Memorial Grove scope meeting, there was a scope meeting at the Henry Hudson Monument. The design work had already been done, and the plan is to proceed with renovations to the statue itself and to the column on which it stands in March, as soon as it is warm enough to work outdoors with water and cleaning agents. The work is expected to be completed by the end of August, which is a very tight timetable for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary events that are taking place in early September. The Parks Department is putting the project out to bid now and expects the winning bidder to adhere to the tight timetable.

Both projects were made possible by grants from Councilman Koppell.

There is movement on the Putnam Trail, which runs from West 230<sup>th</sup> Street through Van Cortlandt Park to the Yonkers city line. There will be future discussion of the plans being proposed by the Parks Department, perhaps at the January CB8 Land Use meeting.

Margot Perron reported that the engineering study of the VC Stadium has been completed and is being reviewed by various people at the Parks Department. She promised to share it with the Community Board as soon as it has been approved.

Chair Bob Bender reported on the November 13 Environment and Sanitation Committee meeting, where the DEP presented its plan for restoring the Mosholu Golf Course driving range atop the Croton Filtration Plant. Margot Perron also attended this meeting. Although most of the presentation was, in the opinion of both attendees, very positive, the Chair found the plan for a second roadway into the park, south of the filtration plant, to be highly objectionable. It would introduce another roadway, separate from the DEP roadway to the north of the plant, and it would lead to a parking lot ten spaces larger than the existing lot. It would lie outside the alienation zone, and it would put the clubhouse and first tee farther from the Woodlawn Road stop at the end of the subway. CB7 has already objected to this plan in a letter to the DEP, and after consultation with Damian McShane and Saul Scheinbach, the Chair proposed a resolution criticizing the location of this new roadway and parking area. The resolution was discussed with the committee, and committee members voted 4-0 to recommend the resolution to the full Community Board.

In favor: B. Bender, A. Goldman, J. Plaza, E. Tucker. None opposed, no abstentions.  
The resolution follows:

Whereas, Community Board 8 has expressed concerns with the Croton Filtration Plant since its inception;

Whereas, the current plan offered by the DEP for expanding the parking facilities at the Mosholu Golf Course was not included in the original EIS;

Whereas, this parking proposal creates more spaces than were previously provided at the Mosholu Golf Course and locates the parking lot outside the alienation area in the park;

Whereas, parkland is a precious limited commodity for the residents of the area and the Bronx;

Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board 8 opposes the proposal by the DEP to use any parkland not identified in the original EIS or not included in the original alienation area.

Bob Bender mentioned a Park Steward program that is available to community residents who wish to become involved in caring for street trees and greenstreets, among other things. He passed out information on this topic. Thanks to Saul Scheinbach for passing along this information.

Margot Perron reported that Van Cortlandt's Winter Solstice celebration will take place Sunday, Dec. 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Van Cortlandt Lake. She said it was a beautiful ceremony and invited everyone to attend.

Margot also reported that the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park have been given a grant by the NY/NJ Trail Conference, amounting to \$57,000. This money will cover redesign of some of Van Cortlandt Park's trails, notably the John Kieran, John Muir, and Cass Gallagher trails, to make them more attractive to people using the park.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2009. There is no December meeting.

Submitted by,

Bob Bender  
Chairman  
Parks & Recreation Committee

BB:db