

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD MARCH 25, 2009
AT THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 OFFICE**

PRESENT

Bob Bender
Tom Durham
Ari Goldman
James Plaza
Evelyn Tucker
Herb Barret,
Margot Perron
Lynn Schwarz
Cliff Stanton
Aaron Mittman
Don Tannen
Christina Taylor

AFFILIATION

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman
CB #8
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VCP Memorial Grove
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
FIPNA
KRVC Development Corp.
Riverdale Nature Preservancy
VCP Memorial Grove
Friends of VCP

Nominations for the Bronx Community Board No. 8 Community Service Award were solicited. Herb and Don were again congratulated for winning the award last year and thanked for their ongoing work in the Memorial Grove at Van Cortlandt Park.

There was discussion of Earth Day activities in Van Cortlandt Park, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 10 AM to 1 PM. Cliff Stanton spoke about KRVCDC's plans for the day, which include giving away energy-efficient light bulbs. Chair Bob Bender mentioned a likely joint venture with Per Scholas to conduct a community computer recycling as part of the activities. Margot Perron urged that a formal application be made right away so that Parks could review and approve.

Christina Taylor described the program the FVCP are conducting to solicit community suggestions about how VCP can be made more inviting and accessible to communities living near the park. The next meeting will be March 26 at Riverdale Neighborhood House. One other meeting has been held and more are scheduled in coming months.

The Parks Department advised that restoration of the sidewalk on the Johnson Avenue side of Ewen Park has begun.

It has been reported by neighborhood residents that a number of trees along Goulden Avenue adjacent to the Jerome Park reservoir have been marked with large orange "X"s. The Parks Department has confirmed that these trees will be cut down to permit construction work on the tunnel linking the reservoir to the filtration plant. We will make sure that new trees are planted when the work is finished.

Chair mentioned that tennis permits are required to charge for tennis lessons in city parks. The only park in the area that anyone was certain is being used for this purpose is Seton Park.

Chair reminded everyone to take advantage of the Million Trees project and call 311 or use the website. Several members of the committee have already requested street trees this way.

The minutes of the March 5 joint meeting with Public Safety were approved with an amendment suggested by Lynn Schwarz to clarify that no decision has been made about locking the gates at Ft. Independence Park pending community consensus on the issue.

The committee's mission statement was unanimously approved as follows:

The Parks and Recreation Committee reviews capital projects in our community parks, as well as other parks matters that affect community residents. We advocate on behalf of our parks with respect to budget requests. We represent the community's interests with regard to parks issues and act as a liaison between parks users and the Parks & Recreation Department.

There was discussion of the budget priorities for the next fiscal year. After reviewing the committee's priorities for the current year and the response to them by the community board and by the Parks Department, the committee agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Margot Perron said that from her perspective the most important priority is more security personnel for VCP. She cited an incident last summer where a single police officer at the VCP pool was assaulted by inebriated people.

Margot said that the Van Cortlandt Conservancy has been established and that she would like to brief the committee about it at the next committee meeting, prior to a public announcement.

Herb Barret and Don Tannen proposed putting a stone memorial marker in the Memorial Grove at VCP. Margot said that under Parks Department policy, any monument must have a \$1 million endowment fund to guarantee future care.

Margot mentioned that the Parks Department intends to make presentations to CB8, 7, and 12 about the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail by the end of April.

It is anticipated that our next meeting on April 29 might be a joint meeting with Traffic and Transportation to discuss the historic status designation of the Henry Hudson Parkway and its implications.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 8 pm.

Bob Bender
Chairman
Parks and Recreation Committee

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