

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD OCTOBER 28th, 2009
AT THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8 OFFICE

Attendees:

Community Board Members: Bob Bender, Ari Goldman, Yael Levy, Tom Durham, Karen Pesce, A.P. Cassino,

Committee members: Herb Barret (Memorial Grove), Lynn Schwarz (FIPNA), Shirley Echevarria (DPR), Michael Gary (Sen. Espada), Christina Taylor (FVCP), Margot Perron (DPR)

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Old Business

Chair Bob Bender reported on the September meeting at Vinmont Ballfield (Sid Augarten Field). The Parks Department is planning to begin work following the 2010 Little League season, with work expected to take approximately one year. The field will not be available for the 2011 season. The Parks Department will present its proposed design for the ballfield at the November meeting.

Margot Perron reported on Halloween activities planned for Saturday at VCP. She said that work will begin on the park headquarters building as soon as the racing season ends on November 21.

The Parade Grounds renovation is on schedule.

Shirley Echevarria reported on the progress of work on the Henry Hudson monument. A masonry survey is underway and the bronze statue is being inspected as well. The Design Commission will be reviewing the work that is proposed by the Parks Department and Parks will proceed after it has received the results of the Design Commission review.

Councilman Koppell's promised contribution to the repair of Ewen Park is \$735,000. A scope meeting will be held at some point in the future. Some of the neighbors of the park have expressed concern about the basketball courts at the park becoming a source of late-night noise and rowdiness.

The Riverdale Playground basketball courts were being locked until DPR discovered that one entrance to the basketball courts could not be locked, so the practice of locking the other entrance has been discontinued.

Shirley Echevarria said that she is exploring the possibility of locking the basketball courts at Ft. Independence Park, as was proposed in last month's meeting. DPR is looking for materials with which to create and lock a gate to the courts. Meanwhile Bob Bender reported that the Design Commission has approved DPR's design for the Jerome Park reservoir/Ft.

Independence Park renovation. This is the version of the design that includes the first down-sized dog run but not the further down-sized dog run that the Committee and the Board recommended. Although the commission urged DPR to work with DEP on the parcel of land adjacent to the reservoir and the park that DEP controls, no one seems to know when DEP is going to make public its plans for this land. The commission also requested that DPR take great care to minimize damage to existing trees during its construction of the running path around the reservoir.

Tom Durham reported that the Executive Committee of the Board reordered the Parks Committee's budget priorities according to the likelihood of funding.

Christina Taylor reported that anyone can vote at the Tom's of Maine website for the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park's proposed trail renovation project, which is eligible for a \$20,000 grant from Tom's of Maine.

New Business

Margot Perron said that the plans for the Memorial Grove redesign will be ready for presentation at the November committee meeting.

Christina Taylor and Lynn Schwarz provided information on an upcoming meeting on the environment at Monroe College that will be jointly sponsored by FVCP and the Bronx Council on Environmental Quality.

The "Bronx Parks Speak-Up" will be held at Lehman College's music room on Saturday, Feb. 27, starting around noon. It was suggested that Maria Khury and the HHSS committee be made aware of this event.

Tony Cassino reported on his recent attendance at a planning meeting for the Hudson Greenway project. He said that there are 4 or 5 possible routes that the Greenway might take, e.g., over the Henry Hudson bridge or over the Broadway bridge. Public input will be important in deciding which route to take. There will be another planning meeting on November 18 at Wave Hill, starting at 7:30 PM.

Herb Barret reminded everyone that there will be a Veterans' Day ceremony at the Memorial Grove on November 11, beginning at 12:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The Chair thanked Ari Goldman for assistance with the minutes.

Submitted by,

Bob Bender
Chairman
Parks and Recreation Committee