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Chair

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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Parks & Recreation Committee
Thursday, April 14, 2011, 6 p.m.
1664 Park Avenue
Board Office

Present: Frances Mastrota, Keith Massey, David Giordano, Frank Brija, Richard Toussaint, Bob McCullough and Norma Ojeda

Absent: Debbie Quinones, Cora Shelton and Russel Shluler

Excused: Hector Nazario

Guest: Lawrence Vargas, Eric Peterson and Adam Brija

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order @ 6:04 PM by the Chair. Agenda was accepted. We at this time did not have quorum. Parks Committee Members who were present were introduced.

2. Opening remarks by the Chair

a. The announcement was made of Dimitri's Urban Garden Center being awarded a \$750 Compost Grant by the Borough President's Office.

b. Wards Island 103rd St. Pedestrian Bridge is still under rehabilitation, but on schedule to be opened at the end of June 2011.

c. East River Plaza

i. The New York Restoration Project (NYRP) 103rd Street Garden - Construction has begun and part of this process is the building of a new playground. On May 19th they are teaming with Ka-BOOM and Disney for a big volunteers day to build the playground.

ii. East River Plaza Greening (MOU) ongoing discussions continue as all parties come together to share their vision of this project, the constructive use of its budget, and their concept of the project.

d. Vision 2020 - NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan -The Committee has received a complete copy of the plan.

More time is needed for to read, review and/or reconfigure past with present designs, and visions to blend or/and circumnavigate some of the proposed options.

3. DISCUSSION - At the time of the 10 minute discussion we did not have quorum.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Block 1815, lots 5 & 7 - 118th St. North East of Pleasant Ave. These two Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) lots are undeveloped. GreenThumb, a NYC Parks Department federally funded block grant organization, has awarded a interim three (3) year lease for these two (7&8) lots to Pleasant Village Community Gardens, a preserved Community Parks Department (M299) Garden, Block 1815 lots 2, 3, 48, 50, 52, 53,148 to further develop gardening beds.
- We the Parks Committee need to understand the process by which this interim site control was given. Block 1815 falls into the "GreenZone" of the East River Plaza (Costco, Target, etc.) MOU greening area (116th to 119th Sts. from First Ave to the FDR).
- Our Committee needs to distinctly understand and be informed of this "interim" process. We cannot without such information available to us go forward to successfully present the community's vision of their stake in the greening design of their neighborhood, for health, economic, and ascetic reasons.
- AT 7:43 QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED
- The NEW BUSINESS was repeated for the purposes of quorum. Problems with the sustainability and care of the Trees and Plant materials which were planned to be put in place were discussed. These issues will be brought to the table again in May.

ACTION ITEM: A motion was made by Richard Toussaint seconded by Frank Brija to write a letter to Edie Stone, Director Of GreenThumb, Dept of Parks & Rec. to request her attendance at the May Meeting of the Parks Committee. Mr Toussaint accepted the friendly amendment of Robert Mc Cullough to copy: Our Councilwoman M.Mark-Viverito, Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Borough Commissioner Castro, and Mr. Liam Cavanagh of the Parks Department. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr Toussaint made the request that the Parks Committee continue to study their March

distributed packets on the East and Harlem River Esplanade, until September 2011. At that time we will place the packet and Vision 2020 back on the table.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS –

a. The Marcus Garvey amphitheater is on target for completion at the beginning of May. There will be a ribbon cutting sometime in early June date TBA.

b. Work has begun to repair and reset the cobblestone pavers on Madison Ave from 120 to 123rd St. Estimated four (4) months to complete.

c. The Urban Garden Center - 115 & 116th Sts. on Park Ave. is OPEN.

d. CONGRATULATIONS to Ramon Michael Gonzalez, our community's candidate to the Randall's Island Sports Foundation (RISF) on the NY Times Magazine 04-10-11 Cover Article: REFORMED SCHOOL. Mr Gonzalez anticipates being seated on the RISF Board in June 2011.

e. OPEN Community Garden FYI Meetings are held directly after the Business Meeting of the Parks Committee by the Committee Chair in the front board office. Handout available (FREE) entitled: ORGANIZING YOUR GARDEN or CREATING A PAPER TRAIL by Janice Hawkins-Flood of the Bronx Land Trust.

6. ADJOURNMENT - The committee moved to adjourn @ 7:03 p.m.