Environment, Open Space and Parks Committee
Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Board Office

*** Minutes ***

Present: Frances Mastrota (Committee Chair), David Giordano, Tabatha Lozano, Jeffrey Monteiro, Ryan Sheffield, Russel Shuler (Public Member), Nilsa Orama (ex officio), Thomas Herrera (staff)

Excused: None

Absent: None

Guests: Dena Toussaint, Sarah Neilson (NYC Parks), Marissa Berry (NYC Parks), Shena Kaufman (NYC Parks), LaSharn Cooper-Patt (NYC Parks)

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda
   
a. The committee was called to order by the Chair at 6:10 PM when quorum was attained. Agenda was adopted by Ryan Sheffield and was seconded by Jeffery Monteiro. All in favor.

2. Announcements
   
a. Eric Peterson, Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA), announced and distributed the RIPA Calendar of Events 2018. He also announced the current employment opportunities on the RIPA website. He concluded with saying that the Sports Permit applications deadline has been extended to January, 20th, 2018.

b. The chair announced the presence of Mrs. Dena Toussaint, and distributed her late husband's biography, Richard Toussaint, to all in attendance.

3. Presentations & Discussions
   
a. A review of the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation conceptual design for the Harlem Greenway Link:
Marisa Berry, Project Planner, NYC Parks Dept. exhibited the final conceptual design result of the community visioning events of the $101 million, 7 acre new park. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is asking for a Letter of Support for their project. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) will then carry the project forward, as soon as the DOT and the Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority (TBTA) returns the property to the Park's Dept. Time Line 2018-2019.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Monteiro to issue a letter of support for the conceptual design of the Harlem Greenway Link. The motion seconded by Tabatha Lozano and passed unanimously.

b. A presentation of the various Fitness, Art, & Cultural program initiatives offered at the Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Marcus Garvey (Mt. Morris) Park:

LaSharn Cooper-Patt, NYC Parks Dept. spoke of and distributed Flyers on the following: Free Fitness Classes 02-11 thru 02-16-2018; Toddler Enrichment Programs - children ages 2-5, Tuesdays to 03-24-2018,10-11 a.m.; 3-D Maker Experience - 3D Printing, contact: Anthony Burton, 212-860-1380; Thurber Theater in Transit, Friday 01-26-2018, Free Concert, 6:30 PM. RSVP to Pelham Fritz on the Special Events Parks Website

4. New Business

a. Ms. Shena Kaufman introduced herself as the new Parks District Manager for CB's 10 &11.

5. Continuing Business

a. Thomas Herrera, Assistant District Manager CB11M, committee liaison, reported that our Capital & Expense Budget Requests have been submitted. We should have a response by the end of the month

b. Nilsa Orama, CB11 Chair, asked that we advocate for community based groups that may "asks" for their groups.

c. After careful thought and discussion, a motion was made by Russel Schuler for the Board to support the naming of the park at the Harlem Greenway Link between East 125th and East 132nd Streets as Richard Toussiant Park. Additionally, the pathway on the Harlem River Esplanade leading from 142nd Street to the entrance of the proposed new park at 132nd Street to be named as Richard Toussaint Way in honor of lifelong East Harlem park’s advocate and former Community Board 11 member, Richard Toussiant. The motion was seconded by David Giordano and passed unanimously.

6. Old Business
a. Preliminary conversation about the Budget and Capital Expenses and the expectation for the committee. The committee should expect the response from OMB by the end of January.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeffery Monteiro, seconded by Tabatha Lozano at 7:58 p.m. all in favor.
Richard Patrice Toussaint  
March 17, 1944 — May 25, 2015  

A Celebration of the Life of  

Saturday, May 30, 2015 - 11:00 AM  
St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church  
65 West 138th Street  
New York, NY 10037  

Father Freddie Washington,  

[Image of Richard Patrice Toussaint]
Order of the Mass

Gathering Hymn  "Amazing Grace"
Processional Hymn  "Shall We Gather At The River"

Placing of the Pall

First Reading —
Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-9  Stephanie Colbert

Second Reading —

Gospel  Father Freddie Washington

Homily  Father Freddie Washington

General Intercession

Offering Hymn  "I Surrender All"
Communion Hymn  "I Am The Bread of Life"
Communion Meditation Hymn  "When Peace Like A River"
Obituary Read by  Eugene Graham, Jr.

Remarks

Final Commendation

Recessional Hymn —
"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express its gratitude and sincere appreciation to all friends, neighbors and those in the community for their expressions of concern and support to our family during his time of illness. Your continued prayers and expressions of sympathy will continue to be most appreciated.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to Venta's Funeral Home

630 St. Nicholas Avenue  3254 White Plains Road
New York, NY 10030  Bronx, NY 10467
(212) 281-8850  (718) 324-4700
He was employed as a counselor at the College Liberal Program in Flushing, NY. While there, he...

William Commence College then earned his Master's degree from City College of New York. William graduated from Presentation Catholic High School, where he excelled in his studies and participated in various extracurricular activities.

Unfortunately, William passed away in his hometown of Flushing, NY, in 1996. His passing left a void in the community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

His family can look back on many happy times with him.

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OBSERVATORY

There is a great deal to learn in this field of study, and I've been fortunate to have traveled to many places and work with some amazing people.
His accomplishments were many:

- As a teenager he volunteered with The Jazzmobile and was a member of the Associated Community Teams (A.C.T.) - writing and producing plays for young people.

- At Kennedy Community Center he was a co-founder of The Black Mask Players. One of their productions won awards for Best Play and Best Costume Design at Staten Island Community College in 1977.

- As an intern at CBS in the Community Affairs Department, he was a cast member of "The Learning Experience", an educational TV program with Dr. Jeanne Noble.

- As the Riverton Tenant's Association Chairman, in 1990 he presented the idea for the Harlem River Park to the New York City Department of Parks. It was not until 2002 that the first phase of the park (from 135th to 142nd Streets) was completed and officially opened.

- He was President of the Frederick E. Samuels Democratic Club.

- He was an active member of Community Board 11 for 12 years including 10 years as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

- Recently, up until his illness, he was the Chief of the East Harlem Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.). He and his CERT team were the first to respond to the 2013 East Harlem explosion.

- Richard was a founding partner, with Celia Wickham of 'Community Directed Ownership' (CDO), providing scholarships and career guidance to high school students.

And then there are the awards:

- 1989 - The Harlem YMCA 'Black Achievers in Industry' award.

- 1986 & 1994 - The Educational Opportunities Center of S.U.N.Y. 'Distinguished Alumni Awards'.

- 1993 - 'Award of Appreciation' from The National Center for Disability Services for his work with their disabled clients.

- 1997 - 'Community Advocate of the Year' with Cuyama Statewide Services Award for his work with the autistics, an award shared with his wife.

- 2002 - 'The Energizer Award' from the New York Area Chapter of The American Association of Blacks In Energy.


- 2003 - 'Certificate of Appreciation' from Community Board Number 11, Borough of Manhattan.

- 2005 - The 'Bernice Bolar Community Service Award' from the Harlem Hospital Center Community Advisory Board.

- 2014 - The 'Manhattan Daffodil Award' for his work with the Harlem River Park Task Force, presented by New Yorkers for Parks.

But Richard was so much more than those awards and community accomplishments. He was a devoted husband to Dena, his wife of 46 years, and to his son Dumani, a loving son, brother, uncle, brother-in-law and cousin. He had a special love for his grandparents, especially his grandpa who always told him jokes.