Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee
Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Board Office

***MINUTES***

Present: Frances Mastrota (Committee Chair), Russel Shuler, David Giordano, Jeffrey Monteiro, Nilsa Orama, Ryan Sheffield and Thomas Herrera (Asst. District Manager).

Excused: Marie Winfield

Absent: Tabatha Lozano, Russell Shuler

Guests: Marissa Berry (NYC Parks), Jaron McNeill (NYC Parks), Chris Johnson, Phil Abramson (NYC Parks), Kieishsha Barnes (NYC Parks), Uma Bhandaran (Blue Apron), Rasheeda Bitaris, Kushalee Vachamanda, Rasheeda Harris (NYC Parks)

1. Call to Order - Adoption of the Agenda
   i. Committee was called to order by Chair F. Mastrota at 6:04 p.m. with a motion by Nilsa Orama which was seconded by Jeffrey Monteiro

2. Announcements
   i. 22 K sq. ft. of land is available for 6 to 9 months on 97th to 96th streets on the east side of 2nd Avenue. This public area is currently occupied by the MTA as a construction site, and may be developed if the Marx Bros. Playground Project is passed.
   ii. Meeting of the East Harlem Waterfront Project - Harlem Greenway Link towards (125th to 132nd Streets.) on the Harlem River Drive - Wednesday, Nov. 15th - Pelham Fritz Recreational Center, (18 Morris Park West) at Marcus Garvey Park - 6:30pm.

3. Presentations & Discussions
   a. Presentation by Sportime
i. Ben Schlansky, Managing Director, Sportime - Daniel White, Geto& de Milly, - Ricardo Zurita, Zurita Architects all reporting of their work towards the expansion of the Sportime Tennis Center on Randall's Island.

ii. The $18 million of additional improvements to the existing facility would include 10 new courts, new & expanded support facilities, and 4 U-10 Learning Courts.

iii. $1.5 million funding for capital improvements to one or more community parks.

iv. $750,000 for installation of lighting on Randall's Island ball fields (20 & 21)
v. Adding additional hours of tennis programming and recreation for neighborhood youth and others.

Application to the Franchise & Concession Review Committee (FCRC) for an amended license permitting the expansion project will require unanimous CB11M advisory opinion in support of the project. The project has a two year timeline, during which the center will remain open.

A motion was made by Jeffery Monteiro, seconded by David Giordano, to convey to the Land Use Committee, the E, OS, & Parks Committee's positive approval of the proposed expansion of the tennis center.

Voted 4 in favor, 1 abstaining (R. Sheffield).

b. NYC Parks Dept.

i. Marisa Berry, Project Planer, NYC Parks Dept. - presented an informational update in preparation for the 2020-2021 capital Harlem Greenway Link (125th -132nd Streets.) This area is currently being used as an MTA construction staging area. A request was made by the committee for access to the concept plans before the committee meetings in the future, and a "Flyer" announcing the 11-15-2017 planning session. This project is scheduled for committee review in December 2017.

c. Fiscal Year 2019 Statement of District Needs and Budget Requests were not limited to "take off" or "leave on" the list, but to respond and clarify the requests.

Capital Requests
a) 14/28 - Pier 107 on the East River Esplanade
b) 15/28 - Eugene McCabe Field 120th St & Park Ave
c) 17/28 - Comfort Stations @ 114th Street, Jefferson Park, 128th St. & 2nd Ave
d) 18/28 - Harlem Waterfront Greenway Link 125th St. - 132nd St on the Harlem River Esplanade
e) 21/28 - Marcus Garvey Park - 120th to 124th Sts, Madison to Fifth Ave
f) 22/28 - Poor Richards Playground - 109th St & 3rd Ave.
g) 23/28 - Harlem River Park - 135th -139th Streets.
h) 24/28 - Harlem River Park - Rest Room on the Esplanade
i) 25/28 - Harlem River Park - Cameras @ 135th &136th Streets. Pedestrian Over passes
j) 29/28 - Harlem Waterfront Greenway Link - 125th to 132nd Sts Rest Room

Expense Budget Requests
a) 38/69 - Park Programming in all CB11M Parks
b) 42/69 - Park Maintenance in all CB11M Parks
c) 49/69 - Street Tree Services
d) 52/69 - Park Safety Issues in all CB11M Parks
e) 67/69 - Additional Seasonal City Park Workers in all CB11M Parks
f) 68/69 - Additional Funding for NYC GreenThumb Program (Federal Block Grant) needs addition of city funding.

See Handouts

4. Informational Updates

i. ADA Community Garden Statement RE: Maggie's Magic Garden 103rd St. & Lexington Ave. we are awaiting GreenThumb’s statement.
ii. Sendo Verde's four Community Gardens are soon to receive their 45 day letter of removal. This has been the last season or the four gardens
iii. Due to lack of quorum our committee did not take a vote on the Marx Bros Playground (96th St between 1st & 2nd Aves.) a project funded by NYC Educational Fund & NYC Dept. of Education - Avalon Bay Communities. However, Frances Mastrota (CB11M Board Member, Member of the E, OS, & Parks Committee.) stated for the record her vote to oppose this project based on the fact that this project would set a very bad precedent for developers and city officials being able to go around existing zoning regulations making no park or other open public land safe in the city from development.

5. Continuing Business

i. Tabled due to time constraint

6. New Business

i. Tabled due to time constraint

7. Adjournment

At 7:31 p.m., the Chair called for an adjournment. Moved by David Giordano, seconded by Ryan Sheffield.
Minutes recorded by F. Mastrota, T. Herrera

Minutes submitted and prepared by Frances Mastrota and Thomas Herrera
Proposed Expansion of the Sportime Tennis Center at Randall’s Island
SPORTIME TENNIS CENTER AT RANDALL’S ISLAND

• After being awarded the tennis concession on Randall’s Island through a RFP in 2004, Sportime operated an existing facility on Randall’s Island while planning and subsequently constructing a new, state-of-the-art facility.

• The new facility, which opened in July 2009, features 20 tennis courts and related amenities for the public, including Sportime members, non-members, NYC Parks Permit Holders and school and CBO-based program participants.

• In constructing the Tennis Center, Sportime raised and invested more than $18 million in private capital—zero public funding or taxpayer dollars were used.

• Sportime generates approximately 96 jobs annually at the Tennis Center—50% of our staff (excluding tennis pros) reside in East Harlem or in the South Bronx.
SPORTIME TENNIS CENTER AT RANDALL’S ISLAND

• Through August 2017, Sportime has paid license fees to the City in excess of $9 million, which go directly to the upkeep of and programming on Randall’s Island.

• As a concessionaire, Sportime does not own the Tennis Center; the land, and all improvements that were constructed by Sportime, are the property of the City of New York.

• Sportime operates the Tennis Center pursuant to a 20-year concession agreement; all operating expenses, including maintenance and housekeeping, utilities and ongoing capital improvements, are borne 100% by Sportime.

• To date, Sportime has provided over 15,000 hours of free, group tennis instruction, valued at more than $1 million, scholarships valued at almost $5 million, plus free tennis lessons for community children participating in the Randall’s Island Park Alliance summer camp.
EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Due to robust user demand, the success of Sportime’s John McEnroe Tennis Academy, and Sportime’s unprecedented commitment to providing free tennis programming to the communities surrounding Randall’s Island, Sportime has been exploring options to expand the Tennis Center. Our expansion proposal includes:

- $20 million of additional capital improvements to the existing Sportime tennis facility, funded 100% by Sportime, including 10 new courts for a total of 30 courts, and additional on/offsite improvements, outlined below; zero public funding or taxpayer dollars will be used.

- $1.5 million in improvements to community parks and youth play areas in East Harlem.

- Nighttime lighting of two Randall’s Island ball fields (#20 and #21), a $750,000+ improvement, adding nearly 2,000 hours per year of evening field time from dusk until 11pm daily (7 days a week) and expanding access for local athletes and working families.

- New, U10 Learning Courts constructed at the Tennis Center for public-only use.

- Free youth programming to be increased from 2,500 hours a year to 6,000 hours a year.

- Tennis scholarships awarded to local students from the communities neighboring Randall’s Island to be increased.

- Nighttime court usage for NYC Parks permit holders, expanding access during the after-work hours from 7pm – 11pm.

Sportime’s proposal includes incorporating all proposed public benefits into an amended concession agreement, making those benefits/amenities legally binding, in contrast to a standard MOU.
PROPOSED PROJECT ELEMENTS

1. Building for 6 Hard Courts
2. Addition of 4 Clay Courts
3. Support Building
4. Connector
5. Clubhouse Expansion
6. Bleacher Seating for 473 People
7. Ten and Under (U10) Learning Courts
8. Viewing
9. Overlook
10. Parking (19 Spaces)
11. Lighting of 2 Baseball Fields
• 6 hard-surface courts within a metal building with a 45’ high pitched roof.
• 120’-wide translucent sky walls located on east and west facades and centrally placed on the north façade of the metal building to allow abundant natural light into the building while providing a viewing experience from outside.
• Ancillary building provides multi-level viewing of indoor and outdoor courts for visitors.
• New one-story connector provides seamless interior circulation to all courts within the entire facility.
• 4 clay-surface courts added to existing clay courts.
BIRD’S EYE-VIEW: COLD WEATHER

(Bubbles enclosing courts in cold weather)
ALTERATION OF EXISTING FACILITY WITH PUBLIC AMENITIES

• Additional, more visible public entrance to the facility from the plaza and the surrounding parkland on Sunken Meadow.

• Current bleacher seating to be replaced with expanded second floor visitor amenities, including more court viewing and visitor spaces. Relocation of 400+ permanent bleacher seats to north side of existing exhibition court.

• Existing public restrooms and outdoor food concession are preserved.

• Existing public plaza is unchanged.
NEW LANDSCAPED BERM
U10 LEARNING COURTS

• Dedicated, U10 outdoor tennis Learning Courts for players ten years of age and under, and for seniors new to the game or with limited mobility.

• Smaller 36’ and 60’ courts, lower nets, and low-compression balls will facilitate optimal learning for U10 players based on stages of physical development. Sportime to provide equipment for player use at no cost.

• Non-revenue generating public amenity for parkgoers, local families and seniors, free of charge.
CONGRATS!
2016 - 2017 Community School Partners

- 12 Local Schools
- 460+ Student Athletes
- 30+ Weeks of Free Tennis Education & Wellness
Sportime Randall’s Island and JMTA provide free, high-quality instructional tennis programs for students attending schools and community-based organizations in the communities surrounding Randall’s Island, with a primary focus on East Harlem and the South Bronx.

- In the current 2017/2018 academic year, Sportime is sponsoring free tennis programs for 460+ local kids who play weekly at Sportime Randall’s Island.


- The program includes up to 34 free weekly tennis sessions held throughout the school year, for 50-90 children per day, who are transported to the Tennis Center; students receive school gym credit when feasible.

- Over 4,700 local youth participants since 2012.

- Our school-based and CBO-based programs provide the same world-class tennis instructors, curricula and infrastructure offered to all Sportime/JMTA players.
SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT

Sportime’s Advanced Training and College Pathway Scholarship Program provides opportunities for success through competitive tennis, leading to college scholarships, jobs within the industry, and, for a few, professional tennis careers. Scholarships are awarded using criteria such as tennis aptitude, commitment and work ethic, and tennis skills development. The mission of the Advanced Training program is to develop local youth from New York City who, in many cases, may not otherwise have the resources to access the sport.

• Launched in 2010, scholarships cover training, equipment and transportation.
• Annual open tryouts promoted locally – most recent, August 22nd at Frederick Johnson Playground.
• The Sportime Excellence Scholarship Program connects school and community-based programs to U-10 and Academy scholarship opportunities.
• In 2017: 51 scholarships citywide - 26 students live and/or attend school in East Harlem and the South Bronx.
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

• Since summer 2012, Sportime has participated dozens of outdoor community events, co-sponsoring and providing free tennis programming in East Harlem and the South Bronx. These events have included the District 4 Health Fair, the Annual East Harlem Youth Fair, Union Settlement Association Ethnic Festival, Harlem Week and others.

• In 2014, in partnership with Union Settlement Association and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office (DA), and in conjunction with the DA’s successful “Saturday Night Lights” program, Sportime launched a program for middle school students through which it provided free, instructional programs on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the academic year.
Significant enhancement in community programming during Sportime’s first year of expanded operations:

- Increase in free school and CBO-sponsored tennis instruction—to over 6,000 hours per year. This represents more than double the number of hours Sportime currently provides and will allow more than 1,300 local youth to learn tennis each year. New partner schools will be East Harlem-based.

- Increased bus transportation for partner schools to Randall’s Island Tennis Center to access weekly free group tennis instruction.

- Increased number of scholarships for local students, with special emphasis on communities neighboring Randall’s Island.

- Expanded offsite, free tennis instruction at local schools and CBOs.

- 50 percent of new courts designated for NYC Parks Permit holders during outdoor season; thousands of hours of additional court time, including evening/after work, for tennis enthusiasts across NYC.
Proposed Expansion of the Sportime Tennis Center at Randall’s Island
CLUBHOUSE AND SUPPORT BUILDING PLANS

CLUBHOUSE
1ST FLOOR

CLUBHOUSE
2ND FLOOR

SUPPORT BUILDING
1ST FLOOR

SUPPORT BUILDING
2ND FLOOR