



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee

Thursday, December 5, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Board Office

*** MINUTES ***

Present: Jessica Elliott, David Giordano, Jada Heredia, Nilsa Orama (ex officio), Frances Mastrota, Malik McCullough, Jessica Morris, Russell Shuler, Carly Wine (staff)

Absent: Diane Collier, Jeffrey Monteiro, Ryan Sheffield

Excused: none

Guests: Benay Chilsholm, Pa'lante Community Garden; Aurora Flores; Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks; Alda Chan, NYC Parks; Sarah Neilson, NYC Parks; Tom Harnish, RIPA; Nan Melville; Susan Opoteres; Susan Landesman; Diane Pinkson, Malika's Keepers; Ysabel Abreu; Lane Addonizio, Central Park Conservancy; Grey Elam, Central Park Conservancy; Rebecca Burns, NYC Parks; Connie Lee, Marcus Garvey Parks Alliance; David Smucker, NYC EDC

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Frances Mastrota at 6:30 PM. The motion to adopt the meeting agenda was made by Jessica Elliott and seconded by Russell Shuler.

2. Announcements

Jessica Morris announced that she provided testimony to support changes to the procurement process for NYC Parks. Proposed changes would make improve efficiency and timeliness of NYC Parks projects.

3. Informational updates (20 minutes)

a. Randall's Island Park Alliance

Tom Harnish informed the committee that the grass fields on Randall's Island are closed. Soccer and multiuse fields reopen on March 17, 2020. Baseball and softball fields reopen on April 1, 2020. Currently, LuminoCity is hosting a holiday light festival on the

island. Attendance ranges from 2000 attendees to 800 attendees depending on the night. The event is considered a success.

b. NYC Parks

NYC Parks provided an update about the comfort station at Marcus Garvey Ballfields. About 70% of the bricks for the station are in, however the agency is still waiting for steel shipment to finish up the roof. The project is 29% completed.

c. Marcus Garvey Park

Connie Lee provided an update about the tree lighting holiday event at Marcus Garvey Park sponsored by Pelham Fritz Recreation Center and Marcus Garvey Park Alliance. The event takes place on Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the park.

4. Presentations & Discussions

a. Presentation of plan for new comfort station and utility building at Harlem River Park
i. Rebecca Burns, NYC Parks

NYC Parks requested a letter of support for a proposed comfort station in Harlem River Park. The construction of the new comfort station would require the removal of existing field lighting and a diseased tree, in addition to regrading and flood proofing of the surrounding area. The proposed comfort station is ADA compliant, and will be built using perforated stainless steel. It will be large enough to also house an electrical room for new field lighting. The project was funded by a mayoral development grant and construction will begin in 2021.

A motion was made by Russell Shuler and seconded by Jessica Morris to provide a letter to NYC Parks in support of the new comfort station and utility building at Harlem River Park as presented by NYC Parks at the Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee meeting on December 5th, 2019.

b. Update on the Manhattan Greenway – Harlem River Project
i. Alda Chan, NYC Parks
ii. Sarah Neilson, NYC Parks
iii. David Smucker, NYC EDC

Alda Chan and David Smucker presented an update on the Manhattan Greenway as part of the 2018 concept plan. NYC EDC will be overseeing the design and construction for the Greenway between 125th and 132nd street. Currently, the agency is studying existing conditions. The design phase will begin in 2020. Construction will begin in mid-2021 and will be completed in 2023.

5. New Business

a. Pa'lante Community Garden request for support
i. Benay Chisolm

Jessica Elliott informed the committee that the land adjacent to Pa'lante Community Garden is privately owned by Shanghai Bank. Frances Mastrota requested that we postpone discussion and letter of support of land acquisition until we learn more details about the property.

b. 2020 Mission and Goals

The committee discussed its mission and goals for 2020. The committee will continue to support open space, pools and parks, and will advocate to generate new open, green and park space. The discussion was tabled and will continue to take place in 2020.

6. Old Business

a. Resolution for Harlem Meer Project

The committee members, public attendees, and Central Park Conservancy representatives participated in a lengthy discussion about the Design Proposal for the Rink and Pool at the Harlem Meer in Central Park North. The conversation was a continuation of the discussions at the October and November committee meetings. Public attendees expressed dissatisfaction at the reduction of size in the proposed design. Central Park Conservancy informed attendees that the reduction in size is necessary in order to restore the broken connection between the North Woods and Harlem Meer and prevent flooding of the facility.

The committee ultimately passed a resolution in support of Central Park Conservancy's design proposal for the Rink and Pool at the Harlem Meer. The motion to provide a resolution in support of the project was made by Jessica Elliot and seconded by Jada Heredia.

7. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by David Giordano and seconded by Jessica Elliott.