Call to Order – Adoption of the Agenda

The committee meeting began as an information session at 6:06pm until quorum was established at 6:55pm at which time the Chair, Ryan Sheffield, officially called the meeting to order and the agenda was adopted; moved by Frances Mastrota, seconded by David Giordano. All in favor.

Announcements

a. David Giordano announced a Community Engagement meeting to plan for the new East Harlem Center of the Children’s Aid Society to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 11:00am – 2:00pm on location.

Presentations & Discussions

a. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation’s Wildlife Unit to present on their raccoon management project.

Angie Ioannidis (NYC Parks) gave a presentation on living with raccoons in New York City (informational flyer attached to these minutes). The attached flyer includes a number of valuable facts and awareness tips should you encounter raccoons in your community. The main theme of the presentation was to promote co-existence with New York City wildlife.
b. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to give update on resiliency study

Alda Chan (NYC Parks) returned to the Environment, Open Space and Parks Committee to give an update on the East Harlem resiliency study. The goal of the study is to identify how our community can be stronger and safer in the face of a changing climate. Input from the people of our community is critical in shaping this study and the vision plan for East Harlem in 2018. It was noted that it is important to encourage broad outreach across our community for maximum participation especially amongst those linguistically isolated populations. A community forum is being held on Tuesday, May 22 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at DREAM Charter School located at 1991 Second Avenue. Refreshments will be served and translators will be available for those that may need (informational flyer attached to these minutes).

c. Pelham Fritz Arts Programs

Anthony Burton the Recreation Director for the Pelham Fritz Recreation Center located at 18 Mount Morris Park West (122 Street) presented on new and available programming offered at the center. The programs include 3D Maker Space Modeling which is available to youth and young adults (flyer attached). The goal of this art offering is to push for greater participation amongst our community’s young people and to instill a sense of wonder in our kids.

4. New Business

5. Old Business

a. Capital Expense and Budget Requests

The committee discussed the East Harlem points of agreement and the impact on budget/capital requests. It was decided to tailor our requests based on what our committee deemed to be community priorities. Those requests we will focus on and consistently review are those that are realistic, attainable and sustainable.

Further to the East Harlem points of agreement, it was brought to the committee’s attention by our staff liaison Thomas Herrera that the Department of City Planning will make city agencies available to the Community Board at our request as an accountability measure and for informational purposes. The Chair Ryan Sheffield will coordinate efforts to host city agencies at our monthly meetings to discuss those issues that are relevant to our committee and community at large.

6. Adjournment
A motion was made at 7:51pm by Jeffrey Monteiro to adjourn, seconded by Frances Mastrota.