



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee Thursday, June 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Board Office

*** Minutes ***

- Present: David Giordano, Frances Mastrota, Malik McCullough, Russel Shuler, Nilsa Orama (ex officio), Angel Mescaín (staff)
- Absent: Jada Heredia, Jeffrey Monteiro, Ryan Sheffield (Chair)
- Excused: none
- Guests: Bob McCullough, Each One Teach One; Connie lee, MGPA; Jiullian Leigh, Public Art Initiative; Stephen Hamson, NYC parks; Andrew O'Toole, NYC Parks; Mary Nell Hawk, East River C.R.E.W.; Lane Addonizio, Central park Conservancy; Jessica Morris, CB11; William Caverly, Soccer Shepherds NY; Sadel Ali, NYC DEP; Joe Fitenie, Savin Engineering; Tom Harnisch, RIPA; David Salerno, RIPA; Jamel Wright, Harlem Jets

1. Call to Order – Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order by committee member Frances Mastrota at 6:42 pm. At which point the committee did not have quorum.

2. Announcements

- a. There will be ground testing at 101st Street Children's Aid Society in preparation for the rebuilding.
- b. David Salerno introduced himself as the replacement for Eric Peterson, he will serve as Deputy Director of the Randall's Island Park Alliance
- c. Tom Harnisch introduced himself as the Director of Operations of the Randall's Island Park Alliance

3. Presentations & Discussions

- a. NYC proposed design for the renovation of the synthetic turf ballfield at Harlem River Park (127th Street/Second Avenue)

Andrew O'Toole of NYC Parks presented the proposed design for the replacement of the synthetic turf field which is 12 years old. Other repairs will include addressing any sink holes that are present. The newly renovated multi-purpose field will accommodate softball, baseball, soccer and football. Funding for this project will only cover the turf renovation and some fencing. The project timeline is estimated to be less than one year. The work will need to be done when the weather is above 50° degrees, therefore, the field would not be available for sport activities for one season. As part of the renovation project, two trees will be removed due to their poor condition.

Questions from the committee and guests were concerned with:

- comfort station
- fencing and bleachers
- available fields for use when the park is closed due to construction

NOTE: At 7:08 pm quorum was attained and the agenda was adopted. Motion to adopt the agenda by Giordano, seconded by Shuler and passed.

- b. Update on Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant project

Humberto Galarza of NYC DEP presented the update and informed the committee that the project was necessary due to chronic failure of the exterior building envelope which has resulted in:

- Wide spread water and air infiltration
- Failure of internal and exterior window seals
- Failure of glass coatings
- Extensive corrosion of steel structure and components
- Structural failure of concrete panels
- Trapped water which has become a breeding ground for mosquitos
- Inadequate insulation causing loss of heat and condensation

The project is funded and once approved by the Public Design Commission, should take one to two months to complete. The plant is a secure building that is closed to the public. However, there is a facility in Brooklyn that has programming that is open to the public.

Questions from the committee were concerned with public and worker safety and the containment of airborne asbestos and polychloride particles.

- c. Presentation of temporary art installations at Eugene McCabe Field and Harlem Art Park

Connie Lee of the Marcus Garvey Park Alliance informed the committee that these installations will be done in Summer 2019 and are the result of the work of the Public Art Initiative Committee, a collaborative working to create public art opportunities for uptown artists, women artists and artists of color. Artists are encouraged to contact Connie Lee at presidentmgpa@gmail.com for more information. Any artist that lives in East Harlem can participate.

- d. Discussion regarding lighting repairs at Each One Teach One Park

Bob McCullough reported that for over a year and a half the lights at the park have been out. He describes the difficulty he has had reaching out for help to light the park. He also reported that the shed covering the mural in Crack is Wack Park is in disrepair and that the adjacent basketball court has been destroyed during construction for the Harlem River Drive reconstruction project.

4. New Business

- a. Re-Envisioning Lasker Pool and Rink. Land Addonizio of the Central Park Conservancy announce the upcoming community meeting to discuss the reconnection of the surrounding landscapes with the pool and Harlem Meer. The meeting will be held on June 15, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (111th Street)
- b. Russel Shuler, CEO of Youth through Education and Sports (YES) reported the difficulty has had having a light timer replaced in Abe Lincoln Playground (135th Street and Fifth Avenue). This a public safety as well as park concern due to the dense concentration of housing, traffic and parkland in the area.

5. Old Business

- a. Discussion on District Needs and Budget Requests.

The committees main concerns are restrooms, lights as outlined in the current working document. Time did not allow for further discussion.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm. Motion by McCullough, seconded by Shuler and passed.