



Diane Collier
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee
Thursday, June 8th, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Bonifacio Senior Center, 7 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10035

*****MINUTES*****

- Present:** Frances Mastrota (Chair), Russel Shuler, Thomas Herrera (Asst. District Manager).
- Excused:** David Giordano, Marie Winfield
- Absent:** Cinthia De La Rosa, Chandra Smith
- Guests:** Nichols Bing – N.Y.C Harbor School (NYCHS), Melanie Smith – NYCHS; Katha Conklin (NYCHS); Eric Wiener – N.Y.C. HS; Eileen Munsch – Randall’s Island Park Alliance (RIPA); Robert Thompson – Church of the Living Hope; Chantal Gailloux – Pleasant Village Community Garden (PVCG); Christine Johnson – PVCG; Elizabeth Masella, N.Y.C. Parks (NYCP); Maura Smotvich – Civitas; Eric Peterson – RIPA; Christopher Hartsfield – Concrete Safari; LaSharn Cooper – (NYCP); Mauricio Gonzalez – NYCHS; Jack Danna – CB11 residents; Renee Keitt – Chencita’s Community Garden.

1. Call to Order - Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. Quorum was not met. Russel Shuler reviewed the agenda and supported it.

2. Announcements

- a. The Chair announced the sudden illness of Angel Mescain, District Manager. His absence from his duties at the Board Office remains to be determined.
- b. Mr. Thomas Herrera our newly appointed Assistant Manager was introduced and warmly received by all in attendance.
- c. The Chair deeply regretted the resignation of Marie Winfield as Assistant Vice-Chair of the E.OS & Parks committee. Ms. Winfield’s contributions to our committee were studious and enriched the goals of the committee’s mission statement. Marie will remain a member of the committee moving forward.

- d. The Marcus Garvey Park “Tonight We Dance” a free public event to be held June 6, 13, 20 and 27th, 6:00 to 8pm. (see flyer).

3. Presentations & Discussions

- a. Civitas/New York Harbor School Ecological Edge Study. Nicholas Bing; Katha Conklin; Melanie Smith; Eric Wiener; four students from New York Harbor School (NYHS) presented the results of their East Harlem node (96th to 115th Streets.) ecological edge study, on the East River esplanade. Our community and its need for resiliency, the site’s characteristics were the conditions that led to the proposing of a “Living Shoreline”, along this narrow stretch of the esplanade, using fill. Implementing this action/solution requires approval from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Therefore, mitigation and the prediction of aquaculture uplift are imperative to obtain this approval. The hypothesis of the students study is to be able to predict the evidence that habitats and aquaculture come in many forms. By study design, monitoring and recording observations of the various changes in the node area under investigation, the Harbor School students will build evidence for implementing a baseline to predict and determine water quality, marine diversity and the overall effects of using different construction materials on marine biodiversity (see hand-out).
- b. Informational presentation on the 2017 activities of Concrete Safaris’ environmental justice work. Christopher Hartsfield, Concrete Safaris’ Outdoor Play Coordinator. The Jungle Gym 2017 Summer Series (06-24,07-29, 08-26-2017) 11an – 3pm will introduce more than 200 local school students to activities that range from gardening, healthy nutrition, physical strength (walking, running), and creative art projects. Located on Third Avenue, East 115 – 117th Streets, these events are free to all students. Registration for the racers is required. (www.junglegymrace.com). (See Flyer).
- c. Art in the Park Installation at Thomas Jefferson Park (111th to 114th St at First Avenue). Elizabeth Magella, Public Art – N.Y.C. Dept of Parks & Recreation. The Art in the Parks project is a UNIQLO Park Grant that supports the creation of artworks by N.Y. City based emerging artists. East grantee received \$10,000 to create their proposed artwork in highly visible but underserved by cultural Programming Park. This temporary public art installation by artist Capucine Bourcart is to be installed on the Thomas Jefferson baseball field gate (112th St & First Avenue) from June 2017 to June 2018. Opening celebration – Friday, June 23, 2017 6:00-8:00pm. Ms. Bourcart to create her art project walked every street in Manhattan from State Street to 220th Street taking photographic details of walls along her route. This collection of photographs was used to create a photo-assemblage made of 4, 170 metal squares that hang from the Thomas Jefferson baseball field’s chain link fence in a design inspired by those of Native Americans the Island’s first inhabitants. At the conclusion of the exhibition the metal square will be recycled. (See flyer & hand-out).

4. Informational Updates

From January – May the members of our committee have:

- i. Hosted 32 Fermentation Workshops for Community Garden Green Thumb leaders. Handbooks issued.
- ii. Written six letter of support for various NYC Parks department initiatives.

iii. Advocated for Parks Capital and Expense Budget items.

- East/Harlem River Esplanade
- Eight Community Park Initiatives
- East Harlem African Burial Ground
- Richard Toussaint Way
- 107th St. Pier on the esplanade
- More than 100 signed petitions in defense of HPD Community Gardens

5. Continuing Business

- Lydia's Magic Garden 117th & 118th Streets. on Park Avenue, a new Green Thumb presentation Community Garden to open in Spring 2018.
- Activities at Abe Lincoln Park 135th & 5th Ave.
- Update of East Harlem Rezoning & East 111th St. (Tabled)
- Environmental Reviews
- Update on inquiry into Central Park use of fertilizers/algae bloom. Tabled until September 2017 meeting when June, July, August citizen science will collect algae data.
- Street tree initiative update – Requests for Rat infestation of street tree pits and root ball removal, tabled until committee has quorum.

6. New Business

- Request for photograph of public art installation on the column on the right side of the 117th Street pier on the East River Esplanade. Tabled until further information and photograph is made available.

7. Adjournment

Russel Shuler moved to adjourn at 7:38pm.

Minutes submitted by Frances Mastrota