Youth & Education Committee
Tuesday, October 10th, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Community Board Office

*** Minutes ***

Present: David Giordano - Committee Chair, Yolanda Brown, Elsie Encarnacion, John Green, Nilsa Orama, Mahfuzur Rahman, Chandra Smith, Shawn Smith, Jason Villanueva, Thomas Herrera (staff)

Excused: Lilybelle Gonzalez

Guests: Junelle Addei, Bennett Schlansky, Paul Dawkins, Khalid Bey, Kate Spellman, Tamika Joshaa, Ron Nano, John Mills, Fadio Kamwa, Tchuisse Kamwa, Pablo Guzman and Madai Velez

1. Call to Order – Adoption of Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Giordano at 6:09 pm.

Nilsa Orama made a motion to adopt the agenda which was seconded by Jason Villanueva. The motion passed.

2. Informational Updates

a. Madai Velez from the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office spoke about the following:
   - She reminded all that October was Domestic Violence Awareness month and that on October 23rd beginning at 5:30pm a walk will commence starting at 125th Street and Fifth Avenue.
   - She spoke about the DA funded grants including reentry grants and hub grants, one which was awarded to Union Settlement. Union Settlement is partnering with other community based organizations (including Children’s Aid) to holistically serve youth.
   - Madai announced the event being held at Gaylord White Senior Center on November 4 regarding “Community Navigator” openings and directed all present who wanted further information to go to the cjii.org website.
   - She informed us that the DA’s office has two types of internships—the High School internship program (paid) and the College internship program which offers academic credit during school. The period of time that applications for the College Internship program will be accepted is November 1-December 1.
b. David Giordano informed the committee regarding the name and logo change of Children’s Aid Society to Childrens Aid—Every Step of the Way. He also made several announcements of community events including the Childrens Aid “We Own Fridays” Community Service day on Friday, October 13, 2017; the Boys and Girls Harbor Day of Service being held Saturday, October 14.

c. Paul Dawkins from New York State of Mind announced that on October 28, they will be holding a Halloween event at the Target Garden at 117th street between 1st and Pleasant Avenues and stated that he would like representation from CB11 since they will be giving out donated CB 11 book bags at that event; Jason Villanueva volunteered to attend.

d. Mahfuzur Rahman made several announcements including:

- The Department of Education is accepting students who are currently displaced from Puerto Rico.
- He mentioned a push for East Harlem students to take the SHSAT (Specialized High School Admissions Test) as minority students are underrepresented.
- The East Harlem Rezoning Hearing will be held October 11 at 12:00 at the City Council offices; last day to submit written testimony will be Friday, October 13.
- He announced that the Community Education Council (CEC) will be having its meeting Wednesday, October 11.

3. Presentations & Discussions

   a. Daniel White from Geto & de Milly explained that he was at the committee to request a letter of support for Sportime and gave an update on Sportime Tennis Center’s proposed expansion of the tennis center at Randall’s Island. The expansion proposal consists of $20 million dollars of capital improvements to the existing facility including 10 new courts, new and expanded facilities and four learning courts. Sportime will also add additional hours of programming and increase the number of scholarships.

   Mr. White mentioned that this expansion will eliminate an existing ball field that is currently underutilized but in exchange, lighting would be installed in two existing ball fields to increase night usage.

   He also stated that they would fund capital improvements to one or more community parks in East Harlem.

   Mr. White explained that Sportime currently has a 20 year lease with the city and are looking for a 25 year extension. He stated that this project must undergo public scrutiny and receive unanimous approval from the Franchise and Concession Review Committee (FCRC) in order to move forward and to be able to extend the...
length of their license term; the requested letter would be used to support the presentation of the proposed expansion project.

In addition to Mr. White, Mr. Schlanksky and Ron Nano were on hand to answer any questions. In addition, a video was shown reflective of the wonderful learning experiences at Sportime and three young tennis players and their parents were in attendance to share their experiences.

David Giordano explained to Sportime that the committee no longer grants letters of support within the same month of a request and asked about their timeline; Daniel White mentioned the first quarter of next year; he also stated that Sportime was scheduled to present at two more committees this week—Land Use, Landmarks and Planning and Environment, Open Space and Parks and were willing to present at any other committee recommended.

b. Fiscal Year 2019 Statement of District Needs and Budget Requests

Jason Villanueva, Vice Chair of the District Needs and Budget Review Committee took the lead in discussing the Statement of District Needs and the budget requests as put forth by the committee. After review, some items were found to have been funded, duplicated, too general or were statements rather than requests; Jason made notations to clean up the language on some of the items for continued inclusion and for others, to list on a tracker sheet.

5. Old Business

David Giordano reminded the committee of the importance of garnering support for the Student Metro Card Resolution and gave all members contact information for other Community Boards in order to plan presentations regarding the resolution.

6. New Business

No new business

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mahfuzur Rahman and was seconded by John Green and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.
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
BIRD’S EYE-VIEW: WARM WEATHER

• 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.
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

VIDEO
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