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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
P.O. BOX 1672
NEW YORK, NY 10159-1672

Parks, Landmarks, & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting
April 3, 2018; 7:04pm
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 220

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Thompson (Committee Chair), Pamela Vassil (Vice Chair), Amelia Acosta, Martin Barrett, Aaron Humphrey, Rajesh Nayar, Gene Santoro, Kathy Thompson, Ronnie White

Excused: Adam Hartke, Gary Papush

Absent: Aissata Camara, Robert Baublitz, William Huxley

Guests: Lou Sepersky, CB6 Member; Jack Collins, EEHA; Wesley Hamilton, NYC Parks; Anne Saxon Hersh, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza; Philip Napolitano, Guest; Jan Armstrong, Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association; Elizabeth Masella, NYC Parks; Ben Jacobs, Councilmember Powers' Office

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes

Mark Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Aaron Humphrey made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathy Thompson and passed unanimously.

Kathy Thompson made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 6, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pamela Vassil and passed unanimously. There were no minutes from the March 2018 meeting because the meeting was canceled.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Presentation by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) Department on a new public art project for Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

Elizabeth Masalla, Public Arts Coordinator at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, presented a new project at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The artist that was selected is Matthew Wiley, who is primarily a muralist. However, for this site he is proposing painting 18"x12" wood panels that depict bees (193 in total) representing the

member nations of the UN. The panels will be attached to a metal piece that will be attached to the gazebo to represent a bee hive.

The installation will be in place for three months. Boxes on the platform will be weighted so they cannot be moved.

The selection process for the artist is done considering site suitability, safety, feasibility and ultimately it is up to the artist to find funding for the project. The program has been in place for 50 years and has a rolling submission process. Parks provides signage that provides information as well as the URL to find more information about the installation.

Sheryl Kazan, President of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, spoke in support of the artist and his mission to encourage education across all generations.

A member of the public asked how long the installation would be on display. Elizabeth replied that any art is permitted up to a year. Some art works can withstand a longer period but generally any project is featured up to a year only. This project will be up for three months. There will be two signs, one by the gazebo and one by the structure platform.

The committee discussed whether or not they needed to draft a resolution in support of the project, stating that it was the committee's policy in the past to do so. The committee decided to draft a resolution and tasked Pam Vassil with writing the resolution in support.

Aaron Humphrey made a motion to support the resolution. Martin Barrett seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2: Parks Department Report

Mr. Wesley Hamilton of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation presented the latest on the following matters:

Sutton Place Park South: Construction has started and construction is expected to be completed at end of summer.

A committee member asked about the status of Albano playground. Wesley did not have an answer but said he would look into it and get back to the committee.

A committee member asked a if the proposed 54th Street bridge is in an area marked as park land. Wesley said he would look into this and get back to the committee.

In late May 2018, Movies Under the Stars program begins. May 23 and May 31 will be the first two nights for the program.

At Sutton Place, there will be a Jazz concert in May. The details for this event are on the CB6 website.

Wesley mentioned that a couple of volunteer projects are coming up including planting, painting projects for flowerbed wall. He will send the information to the board office to post on the website.

Wesley reported that there is a small volunteering project at Stuyvesant Park coming up.

Kathy Thompson asked a question about the 54th Street Park, specifically about EDC's proposed plan for the Midtown East Greenway. Their Plans seem to suggest that DOT is going to take over the maintenance of the park. Question – Did the Parks Department alienate the park? Wesley did not have an answer but said he would look into it and get back to the committee.

Aaron Humphrey asked a series of questions about Bellevue South Park dog run:

- He asked about signage for temporary dog run. Wesley responded that Parks does not have many stand-alone signs but he will look into this.
- Aaron asked about naming the basketball court in honor of a life-long resident of the district. Wesley suggested speaking to Councilmember Rivera to gauge support for this court naming proposal and for other changes relating to the dog run.

A member of the public asked a question about the design of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza specifically about the height of a particular fence. Wesley did not have an answer but said he would look into it and get back to the committee.

A member of the committee asked about getting a movie in the park? Wesley said to do this, email Recreation team.

Kathy Thompson asked a question about WiFi in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (via LinkNYC units). Wesley did not have an answer but said he'd look into it.

Agenda Item #3: Discussion of Landmarks Preservation Commission's Proposed Rules Changes

Mark Thompson announced that all of the issues regarding the proposed rules changes that the committee believes to be problematic have been discussed by the subcommittee.

Raj & Gene & Kathy will be reading the Landmarks commission document and creating a more detailed response.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

Chair's Report

Chair Thompson welcomed the committee's newest member, Raj Nayar.

Adjournment

Gene Santoro made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Aaron Humphrey and passed. Mark Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Amelia Acosta