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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

## Parks, Landmarks, & Cultural Affairs Committee

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

7:00 pm

433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 220

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Mark Thompson, Chair; Pamela Vassil, Vice Chair; Amelia Acosta; Martin Barrett; Adam Hartke; Aaron Humphrey; Rajesh Nayar; Gary Papush; Gene Santoro; Kathy Thompson

**Absent** Aissata Camara; Ronnie White

**Guests:** Wesley Hamilton, Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR); Joe Parrish, Community Board Six (CB6); Jack Collins, East End Roller Hockey; Michael Seelhof, Dag Hammarskjold Park; Robert Stinson, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Park; Jan Armstrong, Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA); Lou Sepersky, CB6; Vitaly Filipchenko, CB6 resident.

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

Mark Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Kathy Thompson made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Gene Santoro and passed.

The previous meeting's minutes, from May 1, 2018, were unanimously accepted.

### Committee Business

#### Agenda Item #1: Report from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Wesley Hamilton from DPR reported on park events and activities throughout Community District 6. There are multiple events in June and July, from Star Gazing to Tango in the Park to the Pickle Ball to Movie Nights, at multiple locations. There will be rock n' roll and jazz concerts through July 5. Events will be posted on the CB6 website.

He spoke about a volunteer project for It's My Park Day, which will include mulching and weeding.

On June 18 there will be a community day at Bellevue South Park and mulching in July at the same location.

Regarding the windows at Asser Levy Recreation Center, Wesley informed the committee that bids came in and far exceed the allotted funds. It was suggested that the City Council be asked to make up the difference. Members asked for the exact amount of the shortfall for funding sources and thought the committee could ask Council Member Keith Powers to help with this initiative. Wesley will get back to the committee with some facts.

Work begins on June 18 at Glick Park (at the East River Esplanade). This includes electrical work but not the fountains. The work order is covered by Superstorm Sandy money.

Wesley is waiting to hear about development/improvements on the Con Edison pier. No date has yet been set for the Bellevue South Park scope meeting. It's usually held in the evening. He will get back to the committee on these open items.

There was a brief aside from Wesley's presentation when Kathy Thompson reported on the Little Free Library in Stuyvesant Park, which will soon be installed and operational.

The committee had several questions for Wesley:

- Sutton Park: what are the technical issues including the layout and underground problems? The answer is that there are setbacks but the work is going along.
- Asser Levy and the scaffolding: will it affect swim times and when do the pools open? Wesley said that pools are expected to be open and the schedule should be unaffected.
- The public art installation design in Dag Hammarskjold Park: when does it open in the pergola? It is open now.
- Blue dots: what is the meaning of these dots painted on tree stumps around the City? Wesley will research and provide answers at the next committee meeting.

## **Agenda Item #2: Continued Discussion of Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2020**

Gary Papush reported that there's not enough money for some of the Continuing Support items, so two of the items have to be moved into Capital Expenses: The East River Esplanade Park (Glick Park) fountain restoration and Stuyvesant Cove irrigation, which is not a DPR property. This will require follow-up.

We are waiting to hear from the Epiphany Library regarding the interior. Cody will follow up.

Kathy Thompson reported that the Dag Hammarskjold fountains project was funded. Wes will check into the contract question and report back.

Adam Hartke spoke about the expense of the Con Edison pier on 39th Street under development and said that it was under discussion by the Land Use Committee. He also reported about implementation of short-term materials for water fountains, landscaping, amenities and more. The topic of “what is a capital expense and amount of years (\$50k over 10 years)” was questioned.

### **Agenda Item #3: Proposal for a 5-year Contract to Operate a Food Cart/Truck at Stuyvesant Square Park**

In 1932 the Parks Department defended suits against the Stuyvesant Estate. Jack Taylor has a copy of that report.

Only the Parks Department can issue a request for proposal (RFP) for food carts around the City.

One question included where the carts would be located. Namely, will it be inside or outside the gate?

Discussion followed regarding the negative impact of carts — the increase of rats and pigeons, space allocation and trash proliferation and pick up. Several questions came up. Namely, would the carts come and go? What of the impact upon local businesses (restaurants and delis) and standardization of carts pricing? What about park revenue? Will there be funding for a bathroom?

There is a need for strict standards and to look at storage issues and permits. The City has asked the Health Department to rate the carts.

Other questions came up. Namely, was the community informed, and what is the timeline for alerting the neighbors so there is sufficient lead time for community input?

Ann Seligman headed up a task force on mobile food carts last year and submitted a report. Cody will provide this.

Board Chair Molly Hollister will be asked to submit comments in the form of a letter. Committee members took an informal vote.

The results were: 6 in favor of the carts, 2 opposed.

### **Chair’s Report**

The chair’s report was waived.

### **Old/New Business**

The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) decided to not implement its own proposed rules and procedure changes (intended to streamline the process of making changes to historic buildings for property owners, but would also remove much of it from public scrutiny). Committee members expressed concern about a lack of information despite some information being posted on the LPC website.

The committee suggested that the group review the lighting issues in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Discussion was held on current conversations in the public arena about increasing or decreasing Community Boards' roles as advisory bodies (or more). Members suggested that this might lead to lawsuits regarding limits and what Boards can do.

### **Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

Mark Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pamela Vassil.