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

Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting
March 5, 2019, 7:00 PM
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pamela Vassil (Chair), Mark Thompson (Vice Chair), Amelia Acosta, Adam Hartke, Aaron Humphrey, Gary Papush, Reshma Patel, Ronnie White, Samuel Albert, Dean Stefanides

Excused: Martin Barrett

Absent: Matt Bondy, Rajesh Nayar, Kathy Thompson

Guests: See table at the end of the minutes

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

Chair Pamela Vassil called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Mark Thompson made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Samuel Albert and passed.

Mark Thompson made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 5, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Samuel Albert and passed.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Resolution on proposed changes to Bellevue South Park

There was a discussion of the design of Bellevue South Park. Steve Simon from DPR discussed the attempts to incorporate community input, as well as the practical, logistical and economic constraints on the design but emphasized the need to move forward. The ultimate goals were to have more lighting, an improved dog area, fewer but more effective plantings and the implementation of a community garden. He emphasized that the choice of play structures—one roofed and one open—were a response to the community concern of misuse.

The color of the basketball court has been changed in response to community input.

Two trees will be replanted to re-introduce the original design symmetry.

Questions and comments from members of the public were as follows:

Aaron Humphrey praised the design but questioned the lack of space for card players.

Kevin O'Brian raised concerns about the poor plant growth.

CB6 Chair Molly Hollister questioned the amount of shade and the planting choice.

Karen Lee raised an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concern in relation to the upper portion of the park and was told that money was the limiting factor.

Another member of the public suggested that a portable toilet should be installed. Steve Simon from DPR said that numerous problems prohibited that from being part of the proposed design.

Ted Oehmke asked about the time line for the work, the necessary closure and raised the concern of displacement of the homeless into the surrounding community.

Pamela Yablonsky expressed dissatisfaction with the dog park, claiming it lacked the necessary equipment.

Mary Shapiro demanded to know why the park was structured the way it was and was told it was developed with the aid of a canine psychologist.

Julia Height insisted there was not enough space for dogs to run and that the upper portion, despite the previously stated difficulties, should be given over to the dog park.

A resolution that supported the redesign, albeit with suggestions for further improving the design, was proposed and seconded.

Chair Vassil thanked everyone for the discussion on this matter.

VOTE: 10 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #2: Presentation from the Morgan Library and Museum regarding their project to restore the landmark exterior of J. Pierpont Morgan's Library and enhance the surrounding site

The extent and plan for the exterior restoration of the Morgan Library were presented. It will consist of two phases: the first would be a renovation and the second would involve waterproofing, landscaping and lighting.

The work will include cleaning, limited repairs and waterproofing and will not require the museum to close. The roof, the bronze fence and the sidewalk will also be repaired.

Chair Vassil inquired about the possibility of the tour for the Committee and the planned treatment for the Lion. Julia Ludwig from the Morgan Library and Museum responded by inviting the Committee to the venue and discussing the cleaning of the lions.

Committee Member Samuel Albert asked about lead in the restoration and was informed that despite the presence of lead sheets, there will be no danger.

Lou Sepersky wanted reassurances that the blue stone sidewalks will be appropriately replaced.

A motion to approve the work was made and passed. Adam Hartke will author the resolution.

VOTE: 10 In favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #3: Report from the Department of Parks and Recreation

Wesley Hamilton from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announced number of upcoming events were announced, including a Women's History Month Art Exhibition at Asser Levy Park on March 29th and Strictly Tango at Recreation Center 54 on March 29th.

Mr. Hamilton also mentioned that Sutton Place Parks and Glick Park are scheduled to have their projects completed on time.

A question was also raised over the question of which agency has the responsibility for recycling bins at St. Vartan Park. Mr. Hamilton said that there's no recycling bins being placed in the park from DPR or from the Department of Sanitation.

Committee Members Aaron Humphrey and Adam Hartke asked about how to bring new programs to Bellevue South Park. Mr. Hamilton said that talking with the local council member would help that, and that resolutions are helpful.

Chair's Report

Chair Vassil talked about her work to set up a meeting on Peter Detmold Park. She also said that she will send out an email to committee members assigning Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) to them to see whether they are in compliance.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

Adjournment

Mark Thompson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Adam Hartke and passed. Chair Vassil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Samuel D. Albert

Guests:

Name	Affiliation
Cecilia Cho	NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)
Leslie Peoples	DPR
Chris Crowley	DPR
Katherine Bridges	DPR
Seth Weine	Resident of Community District 6
Gerard Dengel	Community Board 12
Kelvin Dickinson	Resident of Community District 6
Wesley Hamilton	DPR
Vitaly Filipchenko	Resident of Community District 6
Brian Regan	Morgan Library and Museum
Jessica Ludwig	Morgan Library and Museum
Mark Levine	Resident of Community District 6
Caroline McKew	Resident of Community District 6
Maritza Osorio	Resident of Community District 6
Kevin O'Brien	Resident of Community District 6
Maria Rocha-Buschel	Town & Village
Jon Maass	Morgan Library and Museum
Jackson Fischer-Ward	Assembly member Harvey Epstein's office
Karen Lee	Resident of Community District 6
Erika Guldner	Architect
Pauline Yablonski	KBK9 and friends of Bellevue South Park
Courtenay Bird	Kbk9
Molly Hollister	Member of Community Board Six (not on this committee)
Kavitha Mathew	Resident of Community District 6
Ben Jacobs	Council Member Keith Powers' office
Steve Simon	DPR
Meryl Shapiro	Resident of Community District 6
Ted Oehmke	Resident of Community District 6
Julie McDermott	Resident of Community District 6
Jeffrey Zellan	Resident of Community District 6
Jan Armstrong	Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association
Jack Collins	East End Hockey Association

Lou Sepersky	Member of Community Board Six (not on this committee)
Yvette Brown	KBK9
Vicky Roberts	Resident of Community District 6