

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

Called to Order: 6:45PM

Introduction of Anastasia Galkowski, Riverside Park Conservancy

- Anastasia is our new North Park Outreach Coordinator
- Her area of focus will be 120th to 181st Streets in Riverside Park
- She aims to anchor volunteer groups in underserved areas of the park, to improve conditions, to bring some programming and to build a network of people to care for the park
- The Landmarks Preservation & Parks (LP&P) Committee requests an update regarding the food concession operator search for the 151st Street Arcade and Rotunda area in Riverside Park

142nd Street Dog Run Group, Shannon Richards

- The City deems the dog run a permanent installation
- Questions of how to envision the future dog run space: what kind of surfacing? What features should it have? What are the outstanding community issues?
 - The dog run group has been given 4 weeks to envision how the dog run can be sensitive to the landmark park and the community
 - Margaret Braeken and George Bloomer are part of the design team that will be reaching out for their initial response
- There is no set timeline at present - the dog run group and NYC Parks are still in the discovery phase of this project, simply design and vetting
- Ideally 2022 would be the completion date of this project
- 644 Riverside Drive Tenants' Association across the street was contacted and was disappointed that the dog run will become a permanent feature of the park
 - However, the dog run group is aware of some of their concerns and will try to address them in the new design of the dog run such as the following:
 - The dog run entrance opens onto the children's playground entrance which poses potential dangers - a new entryway along the western edge towards the southern end of the dog run is proposed instead as it is furthest from the children's playground
 - Noise mitigation - difficult to completely mitigate but there are some landscaping features that can be incorporated
 - No more scattering of wood chips - new design will have a new surface that will forgo the messiness of using wood chips
- Although there have been talks with NYC Parks there is no formal letter stating the department's commitment to the redesign of the dog run, yet - the funds allocated may be \$350,000 but there has been no direct confirmation of the final amount yet
 - Nevertheless, Riverside Park Conservancy confirms this is a serious proposal that Parks is considering and will likely receive funding and support

The Omission Project: A Historic Preservation Effort, Anthony Carrión

- Apart from the commemoration of local historic figures and the installation of additional historic markers highlighting history omitted from general public discourse, these initiatives under the “Omission Project” umbrella will also include a photography project tentatively titled “Community”
 - “Community” is intended as a photography project that will explore the idea of the word “community” within Community Board 9 given the extremes that presently exist between more affluent residents and those that pick bottles from the trash or sleep in the streets.
 - This project attempts to provide a historic snapshot of Community Board 9 in 2020 so future generations understand what the area was like during this period of rapid real estate development and gentrification.
 - Though the pictures will help us delve more deeply into the meaning of this often used (abused) word - “community” - this project is ultimately intended as a historic preservation initiative to capture the people and character of Community Board 9 in 2020.
 - Small stipend(s) will be given to local artist(s) to take photographs.
 - Also, to facilitate better interaction with indigent members of our community board additional funds for distribution of hot food and/or drinks will be allocated to provide effective community outreach.
 - The goal is to print these photographs (on glass) and hold a public exhibition in any viable venue such as the Dorothy Day Apartments’ 7th Floor Art Gallery or at Columbia University’s Wallach Gallery.

Public Announcements / Open Discussion

- While We Are Still Here, Karen Taylor
 - Historic preservation efforts are underway, including the planning of a historic markers campaign for Harlem
 - On Saturday, February 29th at the George Bruce Library there will be a discussion of who, what, where should be honored in the first stage of this important campaign
- RKO Hamilton Theater, Dan Cohen
 - Brisa Builders and Omni New York are two developers that have offered proposals for the landmark site and the adjacent empty lot
 - A new community workshop will be scheduled sometime in March to hear the entire scope of their designs and collect community feedback and reaction