

CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2018

Called to Order: 6:45PM

142nd Street & Riverside Dog Run - Shannon Richards, Dog Run Group Supporter

- NYC Parks does not recognize the dog run officially - Riverside Park Conservancy does but it is labelled as "temporary"
- Spoke with Tenants' Association (TA) of 644 Riverside Drive (the building across the street) on Thursday, September 27th - 2-½ hour discussion that was civil, productive and candid
- TA's position according to Shannon is that they've worked to preserve their community, hearkening back to the 70s - continue to voice that they were not consulted regarding the placement of the dog run
 - Shannon did not meet with the entire TA, just the 3 highest ranking members
- Shannon states that their dog run group is still formalizing their organization in terms of developing a website, social media presence, and conducting local outreach, etc. - they are still trying to integrate new members and reaching to both the public and authoritative bodies
 - Continue to assert that they are not necessarily only invested in the dog run staying in its current location - supportive of a dog run in close proximity to where it currently resides - 145th Street abandoned tunnel underneath Riverbank entrance was proposed as an option
 - With regards to extending the number of hours Shannon states that Council Member Mark Levine was instrumental in limiting the hours of operation back in May 2018 - imposition of 8AM to dusk hours is problematic since dusk changes seasonally and does not align with working hours of dog run users
 - Dog run group seeks a partnership with Riverside Park Conservancy/NYC Parks to address maintenance issues - covering surface with wood chips in order to mitigate dirt kick up which was one of the issues brought to their attention by the TA in addition to smell and barking noises
 - Dog run is a community asset and city spaces should be shared

Harlem Eat Up Festival - Update

- Meetings with Harlem Eat Up (HEU) were conducted over the summer - letter of support is contingent on them finding a dedicated sponsor for the maintenance of the fields. They agreed. This is the major sticking point as they refused to reschedule or relocate their event for reasons having to do with depressed turnout in the summer and a lack of viable locations in Harlem Parks (Jackie Robinson is too far north and Marcus Garvey is too far east and inaccessible, etc.) We've also asked them to give preliminary design layouts of the event to identify areas where we can minimize impact to the fields, etc. where possible.
- Arts & Culture committee has held separate meetings with them with regard to incorporating CB9 artists, performers, vendors, etc. Harriet and Dawn Padmore of HEU

are working on some collaborative events with Celebrity Chef Cory who bakes cookies for November's Children's Village.

- We reached out to the HEU team last week (late September) for an update and they said they're still working on finding a sponsor.
- On our end we're working on compiling a list of community based organizations to help program youth activities for the event.
- Committee members stress the importance of developing a baseline by reaching out to Parks - creating an assessment and itemization of the costs for improving the baseball fields of Morningside Park - not just resodding but an extensive renovation that includes excavation, improved drainage, new soil structure, etc.
 - Morningside Park has been submitted as a project idea as part of Participatory Budgeting for Mark Levine's District 7
 - Morningside Park will also be added as an item in our District Needs

Bill Perkins' Participatory Budgeting (PB)_District 9

- The following projects ideas were submitted by the CB9 Parks Committee:
 1. Renovation of Edgecombe Gardens - both Edgecombe Sanctuary Garden and Sugar Hill Garden
 2. Stadium Lights in Baseball Field of Annunciation Park (adjacent to P.S. 161, Pedro Albizu Campos School) for Night Games - project idea proposed the previous year by Kelvin McAllister of Uptown Inner City League
 3. Upgrades for Arlington "Ollie" Edinboro Playground in St. Nicholas Park
- Co-Chairs Jonathan and Anthony will be budget delegates in the PB process

Damage to Jenny's Garden

- Amtrak irresponsibly sprayed herbicide alongside the tracks, devastating the entire western portion of the garden which included several planting beds and trees as well as the composting station
- Questions posed:
 - How do you make the garden whole?
 - What other areas have these chemicals been used in parks throughout the district? The city?
- Site visit with Jenny was scheduled for that weekend (October 7, 2018)