

Waterfront/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 4, 2012 7, 2011 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm

CB9 Members in attendance; Arnold Boatner (Co-Chair), Savona Bailey-McClain, Carol Singleton

CB9 member excused: Brad Taylor (Co-Chair)

CB9 Public member in attendance: Jen Silverman

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Public attendees: Michael Palma-Montefiore Park Neighborhood Assn, Paul Evans- NYC Parks & Recreation, Basia Nikonorow-Montefiore Park Neighborhood Assn, Billwayne Jamel, Jamel Art Group Concepts

Minutes of December 2011 Meeting adopted

Presentations and discussions:

Paul Evans of the NYC Parks Department gave a brief update on the Christmas tree chipping recycling program. Evans also gave brief updates on capital improvements in neighborhood parks and was asked about lighting upgrades requested in the parks. Evans explained the agreement between Extel and the city that allows the private firm to maintain certain lights in city parks that weren't approved by the city.

Next on the agenda was Billwayne Jamel of Jamel Art Group Concepts. Jamel gave a presentation that outlined three proposed sites for potential MLK monument statues in NYC parks. Jamel has proposed a statue be built by Riverside Church on private church property. CB9 member Savona Bailey McClain explained the lengthy process involved in creating sculptures on city owned lands. Bailey-McClain also explained that there is a selection process that involves competitive bidding through the city department of cultural affairs. The discussion also included previous projects created by Jamel for public agencies in the New York metro. It was suggested that Jamel might want to pursue private entities due to fewer requirements. A lengthy discussion followed on the various aspects involved in the selection process. A consensus was reached that the best course for Jamel to follow would be to private interests.

No old business was discussed.

Savona Bailey-McClain brought up a new business item to promote winter sports in neighborhood parks. She asked Paul Evans of the parks department for help to facilitate demonstrations of winter sports activities in parks. Evans said he will follow-up on the issue to raise awareness of the facilities that are currently available. For example there is a cross country ski route in Riverside Park. Evans pointed out that the parks department clears the route for cross country skiing when it snows. Arnold Boatner requested a summary of the facilities available be distributed to the public.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm

Submitted by Arnold Boatner