

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 6  
PARKS/RECREATION/CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 18, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE;**

**PRESENT:**

M. CABALLERO  
M. NEUMAN

J. HEYER  
D. SCHNEIDER

G. KELLY

**EXCUSED:**

J. FRANCIS  
J. SMITH

H. HUGHES

J. PALTZ

**ABSENT:**

D. ESQUERRA

C. PIGOTT

**GUESTS:**

J. ARDILLA – REP. FOR HON. BRAD LANDER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

T. NARANJO – REP. FOR THE DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION

M. SALIG  
J. SCHILLING  
M. CABALLERO

P. BELLENBAUM  
M. OLIVER  
J. NUBILE

S. NEILSON  
J. HERSHKOWITZ

**\*\*\* MINUTES \*\*\***

**Presentation and discussion with representative for the Department of Parks & Recreation on the preliminary design plans for the reconstruction of the St. Mary's Playground on Smith Street between Luquer and Huntington Streets.**

Mary Salig and Terry Naranjo from the Department of Parks & Recreation made the presentation. This is a two phase project and this presentation will cover phase 2.

- Cost estimated at a total of \$2.7 million, mostly from Council Member Brad Lander and Borough President Eric Adams.
- Schematic based on scope meeting concerns: repaving, basketball, skating spot, adult fitness, artificial turf, painted track.
- Open dusk to dawn
- Discussion of basketball hoops and fence beside yards. Currently left. Possibility of sound proofing with foam and half-court raised.
- Friends of St. Mary's Playground beginning to form with Brooklyn International School Parents.
- Light added. Shielded from residences.
- Skate-park targeted towards learners.
- Slat-based benches – 1964 World's Fair style.
- Avoiding MTA columns. Uses pipe to separate park uses from columns.
- Expected one year construction time.
- Full timeline including design and procurement is 3 to 4 years.
- Projected finish is spring of 2018.
- Including ground hydrants to combat dust.

A motion was made by John Heyer and seconded by Max Neuman to conditionally approve with stipulation that basketball courts be altered.

**MOTION PASSED: unanimously as a recommendation to full board due to lack of a quorum.**

General community concern over dust and oil smells near the Gowanus was referred to the District Office.

**General Playground Overview:**

- Pre-scope meeting on next Monday for Ennis Park. Scope meeting before Christmas
- \$2.5 million in funding from Borough President Adams (\$650,000) and Council Member Lander (\$1.5 million).
- EPA involvement in Red Hook due to past lead smelting at fields 5,6,7,8. Fields closed. Meeting with EPA. Planning to use synthetic turf and possible adding lights. Field 9 is also considered but not at risk. It will be remediated after 5,6,7,8. To be finished by 2018 with buffer and demarcation layers. ADA access added. Upcoming testing on fields 1 through 4.
- Non-lead EPA team looking at Halleck Street.
- LICH – Restrictive Declaration Sites. Parks Department enforces but does not own.
- Planned park on Columbia Street between Degraw and Kane: Brooklyn Greenway. Property will not be transferred without funding to improve.
- \$2 million and perhaps another million via Council Member Menchaca left over from Valentino Comfort Station. Remains in Parks Department’s pool.
- Under the Tracks at 9<sup>th</sup> Street currently occupied by MTA.
- Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to the Zoo to be refurbished with fencing upgrades – inter alia.
- “Parks without Borders” more inviting interests – less fences.

Launch on December 15 at the Picnic House in Prospect Park at 6:30pm with Commissioner Silver. \$50 million citywide has been allocated. Small projects and 2 foot fences.

**Orientation: rules, regulation and procedures governing committee participation.**

Explanation of the committee’s purpose was discussed and the subject of somewhat infrequent meetings.

There being no further business the committee adjourned at 8:11pm.

The minutes were submitted by Max F. Neuman.