**Community Board 17**

**Parks & Beautification Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

**Present:**

Jorge Tait

Jacqueline Williams

Linda Turner

Brie Da Costa

Ricky Da Costa

Adele Bennett

Audrey Henderson

Teres Rodney

Ann Hudson

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The **Parks & Beautification Committee Virtual** meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Mr. Jorge Tait** called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**Roll Call**- Linda Turner, Adele Bennett, Jacqueline Williams, Ricky Da Costa, Jorge Tait

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Mr. Tait** said with the $1,200.00, they want to use it to spruce up Paerdegat Park and other parks in the area. They were planning a tentative schedule for June 4th, to plant some flowers and plants by Paerdegat Park. He spoke with Hannah Bossio and they do not have to buy any tools because they will have the tools available for them.

At the last meeting, he mentioned that he was trying to see if they could use some of that money for the fess towards the Trees NY licensing programs for tree pruning, but unfortunately, they cannot do that. He is planning to purchase some tee shirts and plants. He will have a walk through with Danielle Goldfarb, Hannah Bossio and the Park Planter and she will get back to him with the date and time. They will tell him what kind of flowers and plants they can purchase. The reason for choosing June 4th is because the Social Services Committee will be holding a Health Fair on June 11th at Paerdegat Park and if they spruce it up the week before, it would be a nice gesture. He was sent the information for who they will be purchasing the plants from. He wants to keep some money in the budget to purchase some paint for Tilden Park.

**Ms. Jacqueline Williams** asked if money will be designated to purchase plants for Tilden Park?

**Mr. Tait** said he cannot say yes or no, because he does not know what the price of the plants will be. He will check with Dragonetti Brothers to see what the plants cost. This will have to wait until he meets with the Parks Dept.

**Ms. Linda Turner** said when they had the walk through in December, they were told they could not paint the park themselves, but the City would paint it.

**Mr. Tait** said the Jungle Jim equipment comes pre-painted, but they will have to revisit that. There are other areas in the park they can do, and he will ask that question.

**Ms. Adele Bennett** said she remembers them saying, they have a certain requirement for the type of paint they use. The paint is industrial and child safe.

Does the Parks Dept. still give away plants and bulbs?

**Ms. Williams** said the bulbs are given away in the Fall and would to be planted for them to bloom in the Spring.

**Mr. Tait** said when he received the information, the deadline had already passed. They cannot decide what plants are put in the park, that will be decided by the Park Planter.

He asked Mr. Da Costa if he has seen the playground at IS 198, on Albany Avenue and Farragut Road? The playground has a small track and he wanted to ask him if that was what he was thinking about for Tilden Park.

**Mr. Ricky Da Costa** said yes, something along those lines. There were some issues and compromises around the fitness area. Was the budget to fix the park on Snyder Avenue $6.8 or $10 million?

**Mr. Tait** said that would be a part of the Tilden Park renovations and the total would be $10 million. It was suggested to put it in the Capital and Expense budget for CB 17 and in addition to that, they can request funding from Councilmember Farah Louis. He will speak to the Chairperson, Ms. Joan Bakiriddin to see how they can go about that request. The committee can put in the request to the Councilmember, but it has to come through CB 17 on letterhead with the signature of the Chairperson. They can send in the request for the $10 million and she can start allocating it in the budget and that is how Paerdegat Park was redone.

**Ms. Turner** asked can they also get money from the Borough President?

**Mr. Tait** said he does not know, but he will ask. At the Executive meeting, the representative from Borough Hall was there and said they are not funding anything right away **(INAUDIBLE)** in what kind of budget they have and so forth. They did not discuss parks, but someone else was discussing other stuff and they said right now with the situation with COVID-19 and everything else, they cannot discuss any possible funding. They had a meeting with the Brooklyn Boroughwide Seniors, and they said they are not funding anything right now, they are trying to ascertain and maneuver with what they have right now.

**Mr. Da Costa** said thinking along the lines of the $10 million, and if they are going that route, the less of the money would have to do the aesthetics and more of it would have to do with construction, digging and pipelines, and things of that nature and if it gets approved and $10 million is a lot of money, that park would have to be like a next century, new generation. It could be a little crowded because people from other neighborhoods would come there, but it would be a great thing for the next generation to come because it would last a lifetime.

**Mr. Tait** said for $10 million, Jim Morris wants to make sure they use the proper materials and it is something that is not going to break down in a couple of years. This is something they definitely need to look out for. This is where they stand with Tilden Park.

As far as the **(INAUDIBLE)** and Mr. Villarubbio’s presentation, after that meeting regarding the **(INAUDIBLE),** he was thinking they could present at the General Board meeting and he will contact them because he wanted to bring it to the Executive meeting because he would like them to make a presentation regarding the Young Urban Foresters internship and also the licensing for the tree pruning. Some of them were interested in that program and taking the course to be able to prune trees in the area.

For the approval of the Feb. 1, 2022 minutes, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Mr. Da Costa** made the motion to approve the minutes.

**Ms. Turner** seconded the motion.

**Mr. Tait** asked if there were anything else to discuss?

**Ms. Williams** said the comfort Station at Tilden Park was supposed to be completed by the Spring of this year, what is the status of that.

**Mr. Tait** said he does not have an update on that, but he will find out from the Parks Dept. and give them an update. They have not been doing any work from what he understands.

**Ms. Ann Hudson** asked about the Summer Youth Employment Program in terms of putting in applications.

**Mr. Tait** said he thinks it would start in May and he wants to present this to the community as a whole.

**Ms. Hudson** said the Education Committee is thinking of doing outreach in terms of that and this committee can also partner with them in terms of moving that forward.

**Mr. Tait** said the Education and the Commerce Committees were going to work together on that. In the past, he was a part of the Youth Committee and they did some job fairs and helped with resume writing and training where some of the students were able to get summer employment with some of the businesses in the community. They are going to see if they can revamp that. He did suggest it at the Education Committee to discuss it with the Youth Committee to see if they could do it as a group and the Commerce Committee could help to solicit the help from the businesses in the committee.

**Ms. Bennett** said they should start thinking about the Tree Lighting in December of what they want and by November, everything would be set.

**Mr. Tait** said the last 2 years, the Tree Lighting was done by Councilmember Louis, but they can probably discuss that at the next meeting.

If there are no other issues to discus, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms. Williams** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms. Bennett** seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.