**Community Board 17**

**Parks & Beautification Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022**

**Present: Guest:**

Berlotte Antoine Joanne Lewis

Adele Bennett

Alexandra Schmidbauer

Jackie Williams

Ricky DaCosta

Jorge Tait

Brie DaCosta

Frederick Watson

Karlene Gordon

Jadeeva Smith

Yolanda Belcher

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

**Ms. Berlotte Antoine** called the meeting to order 7:37pm.

She asked if everyone received the October 4, 2022 minutes? She asked for a motion to approve the minutes?

**Ms. Adele Bennett** made a motion to approve the minutes.

**Ms. Jackie Williams** seconded the motion.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Antoine** said from the last meeting, she had a conversation with several people and among them, she spoke to Ms. **(INAUDIBLE)** from the Brooklyn Outreach Coordinator for the NYC Parks about the tree pruning they want to do, the bulbs they would like to have, one of the events she has to put together, the healthy eating, healthy cooking fair. There is a lot of assistance she can get from the partnership panel. Today, she wants to continue the conversation because Ms. **(INAUDIBLE)**  She also has some new developments **(INAUDIBLE)** She did a walk through of Paerdegat Park with Ms. Fraser and they saw the condition of the park. There were a lot of leaves in the park and it was not clean at all. She does not know the conditions of the other parks, but maybe members can report what they saw in the other parks and if the members want to do something about it, she wants to know because the community needs to be clean.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony time will change from 6-9pm to 4-8pm. Everything needs to be done by 8pm, including the cleaning. This is something they need to discuss. She asked if there were any questions on what she said?

**Ms. Karlene Gordon** said in regards to the park, are they going to have a cleanup before the event or are they going to call Sanitation in to take care of it or are they going to do it themselves?

**Ms. Antoine** said they should do something to make sure the park is clean before the event.

**Ms. Bennett** said it is a good idea to start earlier because they would have some daylight to work with, instead of doing it in the dark.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** said last year, the event was held from 6-8pm. They have to take into consideration that the leaves are falling and are raked up every day. They can call the Parks Dept. and ask them to clean up the leaves in the park. Sanitation does not go into the parks to clean because that is the responsibility of the Parks Dept. They should speak to the Parks Dept. a week before to make sure they have the park cleaned because they may not have anyone to clean the park the day of the event.

**Ms. Antoine** asked if they should check the park the day before the event?

**Ms. Williams** said they can check the park the day before, but there should not be that many leaves falling in December and they should engage the Parks clean up crew to clean the park before the event.

**Ms. Antoine** said the event will be held in Paerdegat Park on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 from 4-8pm.

The letters were sent to the elected officials. The letters for the Churches have not been sent out as of yet. Some of the members wanted to take the letter to the Churches and she will reach out to put something together. A new flyer was sent out because the time for the event has changed.

She has an update on the discretionary funds requested and she does not have the final decision from the Board. The funds will be used to buy some of the things needed for the event. She has a list of things that were purchased before and she will send the list to them to see if there is anything they want to add.

**Ms. Bennett** asked if there were any gifts left from the last event?

**Ms. Antoine** said there is a box of gifts in the office and she will see what is in the box and take an inventory so they will know what they have already and what they will need to buy. She will give the list to Ms. Fraser and when the funds become available, she can place the order.

At the last meeting, they were discussing the Curb Your Dog project and they were talking about the lack of signs in the neighborhood and the parks, and there is an issue where people do not do the right thing for their dogs. She received an email from Ms. Alexandra with some beautiful posters that can be used and it is hard to know if they can be used inside of the park because of the restrictions about what they can do inside the park, however, if they want to use them in their neighborhoods, they can be sent to them to post in their areas.

**Ms. Alexandra Schmidbauer** said one approach they can take to get the message out to their neighbors is public health education. People don’t know that if dog waste is not picked up will run into the storm drains and technically, poisons/contaminates the water supply. There are various public health messages around on why they should pick up their dog waste. They can email her and she will send them the link to download the flyers.

**Mr. Tait** said they can do a mass emailing and send it to the whole committee instead of doing it individually.

**Ms. Brie DaCosta** said that is a good idea because a lot of the neighbors do not pick up after their dogs and it is a bit problematic. She was wondering if there were something a little more permanent that they could do, and that would obviously cost money, but is there a way they can actually turn the flyers into signs that could weather rain and things like that, so they are more permanent.

**Ms. Schmidbauer** said they laminated them and punched holes in them and put them on fences and string them around trees and not attach them to the trees and they held up to the weather for over a year with just the lamination. In the past, they laminated a batch to take to their clean-ups.

**Ms. Antoine** said at the last meeting, they discussed the tree pruning projects and needing the area to be green. Some people objected because they have tree plantings and the trees are not being taken care of. They can get 1 or 2 bags of bulbs and which park can benefit from this, because they can use them to do a project.

**Ms. Bennett** said the bulbs can also be use for the green spaces in the area to spruce them up. There are a lot of green spaces on Kings Highway in front of homes and taking care of them should not be hard and the City does come by to clean and manicure the green space areas. They are part of the Parks Dept.

**Ms. Antoine** said planting them is one thing but taking care of them another thing.

They also spoke about the renovations for Tilden Park. She spoke to Ms. **(INAUDIBLE)** the Brooklyn Outreach Coordinatorabout the renovations for Tilden Park and one of the things she requested is a working collaboration for Tilden Park and Mr. **(INAUDIBLE)** said he will try to work with her to see what can be done. She has not visited Tilden Park to see what needs to be done.

**Ms. DaCosta** said last year, her husband had a lot of involvement in those discussions and she knows the equipment is dated and rusty and she does not know the last time the park was updated. They generally take their children to other parks because they have better equipment, more of a variety that their park does not offer and hopefully, at some point they will be able to get a budget for the Community Board that they can allocate to the park just to make sure the children in this area have a good park to play on, especially with equipment the can adaptive for children with disabilities, just a wider range of playground equipment. They only have baby swings, none for the older children. She feels a lot can be done to update the park.

**Ms. Williams** said she agrees with Ms. DaCosta, Tilden Park needs a lot, the asphalt is broken with grass growing the cracks. Last year when they did the walk through in the park with Mr. **(INAUDIBLE)** they talked about the needs, the chipped paint, and the park is in disrepair and really needs to be updated.

**Ms. Antoine** said she will look into that and get back to them by the next meeting.

**Mr. Tait** said when they did the last walkthrough, Mr. **(INAUDIBLE)** from the Parks Dept. could not attend, but sent a representative. After that, they sent the estimate of what it would cost to renovate each park, for a total of $10 Million Dollars.

**Ms. Antoine** said she would like to know where this where this project was before and she spoke to the Council member about park renovations and they did not explain anything. If there is an estimate, is this something that they can get or do they have to do something. If there is already something done, can they follow up on that and who can she contact to follow up, instead of starting from scratch and they need to move forward with this.

**Roll Call-**Adele Bennett, Jadeeva Smith, Yolanda Belcher, Alexandra Schmidbauer, Frederick Watson, Karlene Gordon, Jorge Tait, Ricky DaCosta

**Ms. Antoine** said at the last meeting some members said they would follow up on somethings regarding the upcoming event. Does anyone have anything to report on what they were trying to do?

She asked if Mr. George was contacted? She wants to make sure he is on board.

**Ms. Williams** said Ms. Turner is going to contact him.

**Ms. Antoine** said for new business, she mentioned the time change for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and now she wants to discuss the partnership requests from Councilmember Farah Louis to partner with the committee for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. They asked her if she wants to change the date and she told them she already has the permit, and now they want to partner with them. She asked the members how they feel about the partnership with Council Member Louis’ office. She asked if they had any objections to the partnership?

The members had no objections.

**Ms. Antoine** asked what do they want to see in terms of a partnership, because she has to meet with Council Member Farah Louis on Friday, but has to discuss it with the members first. In terms of partnership, they said they already have a tree that can be used, and they can do some other things.

**Ms. Yolanda Belcher** said they can get the children involved in decorating the tree.

**Mr. Tait** said he thinks it is a good idea to continue the partnership and they have done it in the past. His suggestion as far as partnership, he would ask them to get a tree taller than the one they had last year. He talked to Camara Jackson from the Councilmember’s office and she agreed they need a bigger tree. Additionally, partnering with them, they can ask that they make sure the park is clean because they can put more pressure on the Parks Dept. They did have giveaways in terms of candy and cookies and things like that and those are little things they can do as partners.

**Ms. Antoine** said according to the permit, the tree has to be a certain height, and she will check that. So far, she has the tree, the giveaways, make sure the park is cleaned ahead of time and the children’s involvement.

After the meeting, she will email them and let them know and everything they said will be mentioned and she will provide an update.

She does not know if they can have music in the park, but she will ask about it.

It was mentioned that they can have music in the park, but it cannot be those big speakers, but they can use a Bluetooth speaker system and it cannot be too loud.

**Ms. Williams** said caroling was mentioned and that is why they were going to contact the Churches.

**Ms. Antoine** said she will follow up with the Churches.

When the gifts come, she will send an email to let them know when they will be doing the wrapping.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022 and before that date, they have a lot of things to do and at the meeting they can report on what they have done.

**Mr. Tait** said in the minutes, the former Tropical Reflections was mentioned as a location for the event, but the new name of the location is A & L Manor

**Ms. Antoine** said she will be checking the attendance according to the By-Laws to make sure people are attending meetings, so they can have a quorum

She asked if there were anything else to discuss? Having heard none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Mr. Frederick Watson** seconded the motion.