**Community Board 17**

**Parks & Beautification Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

**Present: Guest: Excused:**

Berlotte Antoine Joanne Lewis Linda Turner

Adele Bennett Kayla Osbourne,

Jackie Williams Assemblymember

Jorge Tait Brian Cunningham

Brie DaCosta

Jadeeva Smith

Yolanda Belcher

Ann Hudson

Karlene Gordon

Sabrina Samedi

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The **Parks & Beautification Committee Virtual** meeting was held on **Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:30pm.**

**Ms. Berlotte Antoine** called the meeting to order 7:35pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Antoine** said she met with some people about the different projects they were talking about and she will follow up with that. She wants the members to participate and commit to some of the things they were discussing, like making the parks beautiful. She asked the members to give her their telephone numbers, which was required by the Chair, so they could a have complete list of contact information.

She will follow up on the Super Stewardship orientation they had **(INAUDIBLE)** A link was sent to them to fill out the survey, if they want to move forward with this training.

**Ms. Adele Bennett** said there are a couple of programs that are open for them to participate in, the tree pruning, the beautification of the parks in the area.

**Ms. Antoine** said there are so many free trainings that they can participate in to make their parks beautiful. She will send the information for what they have to do for these trainings.

**Roll Call**-Berlotte Antoine, Adele Bennett, Brie DaCosta, Jorge Tait, Ricky DaCosta, Sabrina Samedi, Kayla Osbourne, Ann Hudson, Jackie Williams, Jadeeva Smith

**Ms. Antoine** said at the last meeting, they spoke about the Tilden Park project. She thanked Ms. DaCosta for being a good advocate for the beautification of Tilden Park project because she provided her with a list of things that needed to be done. She also thanked Ms. Turner, Ms. Williams and **(INAUDIBLE)** This project is scheduled for the Spring of 2023. She is working with NYC for Parks and this will involve the fencing of the children’s playground and other areas that need to be done. In order for them to do this, in addition to Mr. Cusack, she asked the members if they want to be involved in this project, because they are reaching out to the Education/Youth Committee to get the youth involved in the community. A lot needs to be done in Tilden Park, and they are going to do as much as they can

**Ms. Kalya Osbourne** said her team will be more than willing help, send her the information on what they are looking for, and how many people they will need, that would be helpful to them.

**Ms. Antoine** thanked her, and they will be in touch with her to see how they can collaborate on what they can do for the kids in the community.

She will send the lists to the members to make sure the information is correct.

The next item is the CB 17 Open Space Beautification project and Ms. **(INAUDIBLE)** reached out to her about an open space in the neighborhood that needed beautification, and asked can community members do a project for a place that needs beautification and she reached out to NYC Parks, and they said it was okay.

**Ms. Karlene Gordon** said there is a triangle/green street on Church and Ralph Avenues, and thought it would be a good idea to decorate it for the Spring.

**Ms. Antoine** said there is a volunteer group that will help, and she will speak to the Park Manager to get the okay to do this project and for others in the future.

**Ms. Ann Hudson** asked if they have to get permission to beautify the tree beds in front of their homes?

**Ms. Antoine** said she will send out the document that list the rules and regulations to the members.

If they see something that needs to be done, contact her or the Board office, and they will follow up on the issue.

She does not know all the parks in the area, and she is trying to learn them, so they are her eyes in the community to let her know what needs to be done.

For the clean up project, she is working with the 67th Pct. and they are in the beginning stages. This project was done in the past and she is waiting to hear from the 67th Pct. They wanted her to commit for February, but she couldn’t.

**Mr. Tait** said when he was Chairperson, they did not work with the 67th Pct. This is something the Precinct has done over the past couple of years and he does not know if there was any CB 17 involvement.

**Ms. Antoine** asked for a motion to move the clean-up item to the next month’s agenda?

**Ms. Gordon** made a motion to move this item to the next agenda.

**Ms. DaCosta** seconded the motion.

**Ms. Antoine** said she received a lot of request for **(INAUDIBLE)** parks to be cleaned and what dates it can be done. She will invite someone from the Parks Dept. **(INAUDIBLE)** She wants the members and residents in the community to tell her what the issues are in the parks near to where they live. They can send all information to the Parks Committee email: [bkcb17parksandbeautification@gmail.com](mailto:bkcb17parksandbeautification@gmail.com) and she will compile a list of the issues she receives from the surveys and when she attends a meeting, she can present the data to the Parks Dept. She will need the location of the areas, and pictures if they have them, to make the report. The deadline for the information to be submitted is Friday, March 17, 2023. They can take pictures of whatever the issues are and send them to her.

**Mr. Tait** said in his opinion, they do not have enough parks and playgrounds available to the children in this community. At a General Board meeting, the Principal from PS/IS 109, on East 45th Street, was lobbying to annex the playground on Farragut Road and East 45th Street to the school, meaning it would be the property of the school. His concern with that is if it happens, the children in the area will have one less playground to go to. If the playground is part of the school, other children cannot use it while school is in session or they will close it at a certain time during the day and the park would be useless to the community. The same thing happened on East 42nd Street and Farragut Road, the park is not available unless the school is closed. The Principal mentioned that she had spoken to the Borough President and there was a discussion of whether the park belongs to the Parks Dept. or the Dept. of Education. The Parks Dept. said the park belongs to them. The school was built on a baseball field. The school already has 2 playgrounds that are connected to it. Was this discussed with the Chair of the Board and what came out of this discussion at the last meeting?

**Ms. Antoine** said she is taking notes for whoever she will be meeting with from the Parks Dept. Are there any other parks that are close by this park?

**Mr. Tait** said the only other park in this area is Paerdegat Park. This is a little playground that is used by people who don’t want to go to the big park. The Principal said the park is under used, but he does not see the need to deprive the community of a park, when they have so few in the district. If the park is annexed to the school, it will not be available to the public.

**Ms. Antoine** said if they have any issues and ideas, let her know and she will put them on the list she is compiling.

**Mr. Ricky DaCosta** said he suggested they cut the weeds around Tilden Park a little more since they are trying to beautify the neighborhood, particularly the parks. They can repaint the basketball and handball courts as well. There are an abundance of cracks in the basketball courts and in the open field and they would have to repave the whole area and hopefully, they can put some more grass in that area.

**Mr. Tait** said they were promised that they would fix the cracks on the basketball courts when they did the walk thru and if it has not been done yet, they need to be made aware of the promises that were made to fix the park and the sidewalk around the park at East 49th Street and Tilden Avenue.

**Ms. Antoine** said that is why they need to push people who say they are going to do things and they **(INAUDIBLE)**

The flyer will be sent out to the community asking them to submit their issues and concerns.

**Ms. Bennett** said there is a greenspace on Kings Highway between Linden Blvd. and Remsen Avenue that needs some attention. Where the gas station was, cars are parking on the sidewalk and are knocking down and trimming the trees.

**Ms. Antoine** asked if there were any other issues to discuss? Having heard none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

**Ms. Gordon** seconded the motion.