

**COMMUNITY BOARD #7
PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2020**

Meeting open - 6:30 pm

Guest Speaker:

Chris Yandoli – New York City Parks Department

Galan Sparks – Sunset Sparks

Maggie Flanagan – Waterfront Alliance

Agenda Items

- **Presentation by Sunset Sparks pertaining to securing a boathouse in Bush Terminal Piers Park**
- **Presentation by the Waterfront Alliance to discuss kayaking infrastructure and human powered boating opportunities at Bush Terminal Piers Park.**
- **Update on capital projects in CB7 district from the Department of Parks & Recreation**

Sunset Spark

- **Sunset Spark is seeking assistant from CB7 in obtaining an audience with the Parks Department or EDC to obtain authorization to place a boathouse in Bush Terminal Park.**
- **Placement of the boathouse is fully funded through private foundation's in partnership with the Billion Oyster Project**
- **The boathouse presentation was presented, voted on and approved by the parks committee. It was sent to the entire board of CB7 for its approval (approved)**
- **The placement of this boathouse would allow Sunset Spark to store the boats on site, while providing free rowing lesson weekly to the community during the spring and summer months.**
- **The placement of the boathouse will not interfere with any park activities.**
- **The Parks Department representative, who was in attendance at this committee meeting offered his assistance.**

Waterfront Alliance

- **Longstanding advocacy for human powered boating**
- **Organizers of free community kayaking opportunities across the city, including the notable City of Water Day. This year City of Water Day is tentatively, July 11, 2020**
- **Partnered with Department of City Planning to envision the Citywide Comprehensive Waterfront Plan – Vision 2020, and is holding forums to inform the next plan - vision 2023**
- **Educational outreach on water quality and local waterway with public school students through Estuary Explorers Program**
- **The Comprehensive Waterfront plan calls for ‘water recreation in suitable locations with access point, docks, and on-shore facilities.’**
- **The Alliance is working to develop actionable locally supported designs for publicly-accessible waterfront human powered boating infrastructure.**

Site Selection Criteria

- **A grant given to Waterfront Alliance supports design of new publicly accessible boating infrastructure at 6 sites within the Hudson River Estuary, and located within and adjacent to environmental justice communities.**

Process

- **Community outreach and stakeholder engagement**
- **Site assessment**
- **Partner project with McLaren Engineering Group, a leading marine engineering firm, to provide high-quality, low-cost, value added design services as a partner on this project.**

Visioning for Bush Terminal Park: Near Term

- **The Alliance endorses Sunset Spark's call for a storage container to help facilitate summer programming for the public.**
- **They believe a container could be positioned by the otter lagoon (as per Sunset Spark recommendation) or in the parking lot by the North Embayment depending on where the boating takes place.**
- **Either the outer lagoon or North Embayment could be used as a kayaking/padding site. The North Embayment requires some capital infrastructure.**

Visioning for Bush Terminal Park: Long-Term

- **Potential Capital needs for more human-powered boating**
- **Focus on North Embayment as there are no current ecological issues.**
- **North Embayment could accommodate both padding and sailing. The northeast corner of the Embayment is a sandy area well-suited for a public access dock secured by pilings.**
- **Shipping container in the parking lot right by the Embayment.**
- **Longer term community strategy for envisioning a Sunset Park Community Boathouse on one of the piers.**

Bush Terminal Current Use

- **Programming for boating began summer 2018, and continued successfully in summer 2019 on the outer lagoon using a small gradient to put boats in the water.**
- **Kayaks, canoes and wood boats. Organizers included local STEM group Sunset Sparks, Gowanus Dredgers, Billion Oyster Project, Industry City. Boats were transported by skiff to the launch site. No on-site storage available.**
- **EDC and NYC Parks terminated access to the water for all program (oyster monitoring, boating and beach cleanups) during summer 2019 due to concern over the cap covering contaminated soil under the inner and outer lagoons**
STATUS UNRESOLVED

NYC Park Department

- **Sunset Park**

- **Phase 4 Paving 41 St., 44 St., bet. Ave and 7 Ave.**
 - **Construction Started October 2019 and is estimated to be completed by fall 2020**
- **Phase 5 Handball Courts**
 - **Construction estimated to start spring 2020 and end spring 2021**
- **Recreation Center**
 - **Construction is delayed, project being rebid**
- **Thomas Cuite Park - 19th street between 11 Ave. and Seeley St.**
 - **Water service is active**
- **Captain John McKenna Park – Vanderbilt St. Bet. E 4 St. and E. 5 St.**
 - **Install water service to the park**
- **Rainbow Playground 55th and 56th St. & 6th Ave.**
 - **Scope meeting held on November 25th 2019**
 - **In design, to be completed by fall 2020**
 - **Construction to start fall 2021 and be completed fall 2022**
- **Prospect Expressway Sitting Area**
 - **Install tot play equipment, new seating, fix water service, new landscaping**
 - **Project to start once in-house designer is on board.**
- **Bush Terminal Park - EDC**
 - **Additional field lighting. Currently in the bidding stage to be completed by summer 2020**
 - **Sinkhole repair. Date TBD**
- **Committee Concerns**
 - **Gambling in Rainbow Park**
 - **Quality of life issues/lighting in Sunset Park**
 - **Fencing completion in Sunset Park**
 - **Trash cans/Rocks along wall being destroyed**
 - **Re-seeding of the grass around the flag pole**
- **Requested a walk through in Sunset Park with the Parks Department**

8:05pm – Meeting adjourned

Victor Swinton

**Victor Swinton
Chairman**