

Community Advisory Board for Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Quarterly Meeting, February 26th 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM

Queens Museum, NYC Building,

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,

Corona, NY 11368

Call to Order

Jean Silva began the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Officers in Attendance

Jean Silva, Chair, Gregory Spock, Vice-Chair, Jacqueline Colson, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 16, 2019 CAB meeting were distributed and approved.

Special Guest

Janice Melnick, FMCP Administrator.

Reports

Janice Melnick was delighted to announce that Mauro Playground was finished eleven months ahead of schedule. Wayfinding is very important to the community and the stakeholders in this park. Parks is working on narrowing down the bidders and they should reveal the design firm in March. The design firm will come and talk to the community so people can express what they want to see in their park. The budget being discussed tonight is for the fiscal year 2021 which will start July 1. The Alliance will vote on this budget in the April meeting. CAB members can discuss, or make changes to the budget before April. Once the budget is voted on in April you cannot change it until the following fiscal year. .

Answers to questions compiled in the order it was discussed:

Capital projects are funded through the city, they are managed through the city. The Alliance has no say in Capital Projects. The City Parks Foundation holds the money for the Alliance, and they are our fiscal partner. The Alliance does not earn interest on the account due to the fact that the 501c has not been obtained. We are very close to obtaining a 501c.

The surplus in this budget came from being frugal with spending. The USTA agreed to funding the Alliance with \$350,000 a year for three years, and then it will drop down to \$420,000 a year for next 20 years. Knowing that the donation would drop and to keep the Alliance sustainable the Board never

spent every penny they raised. Sometimes more money was raised than expected for a budgeted item, or they would spend less than they thought.

Restrictive Funding. The Alliance will no longer get funding from City Council due to the changes. Former New York City Council Member Julissa Ferreras gave the Alliance \$49,000. \$39,000 GreenNYC and also \$10,000 of equity money. Since Ferrera's departure the Alliance no longer gets that money. Money given by City Council Members will still go to FMCP. Council Member Lancman has always given more than any other council member to Parks. Landesman gave \$50,000 for Stewardship, \$40,000 for Janice's team, \$10,000 for Ranger programming.

Unrestricted funding. A couple of years ago the Alliance Board voted that the first \$20,000 raised will go to unrestricted funding programs. These programs are free to the public. Every Tuesday children's programming is offered. On Wednesday activities under the Unisphere, which could include movies, dancing, exercise, Shakespeare... For the first time Puppets in the Park will have a show in English then Spanish.

Any money that is not spent is rolled over to the next year. The CAB approved the budget as it was presented with a suggestion of changing the Scenic Frames from \$2,000. to \$4000.

Additional Information

Crime statistics in all Queens Parks discussed.

Volunteers are needed for a Stewardship event on March 21.

Silent Disco fundraiser under the Unisphere on Friday April 24. The cost is \$10. per ticket.

Earth Day Event April 26, 9 AM to 2:30 PM. Please bring friends and family.

The CAB webpage has officially moved to the Alliance website.

The CAB needs someone with Social Media skills. If anyone is interested please get in touch with Gregory.

Jean mentioned NYC.gov crime stats as a good source of information. She also mentioned Data.com.

Suggested dates for future CAB meetings, May 27, August 26, Nov 25.

Open Data Week is February 28 to March 7.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Jacqueline Colson

Jacqueline Colson/Secretary

Date of Approval