

Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
USTA National Tennis Center  
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens  
Friday, February 2, 2018 at 9:00 am

**Board Members in attendance:** Mitchell J. Silver, Chair, Julissa Bisono, Ken Cohen, Tom Finkelppearl, Jim Haddad, Andrea Hirsch, Andrew Hollweck, Vicky Morales, Patty Ornst, Carl Rodrigues, Terry Tang, John Wang, Daniel Zausner, and Executive Director Janice Melnick. **Absent:** Carol Conslato, Raul Garcia, Edwin Wong.

**Also in Attendance:** Meira Berkower, NYC Parks, Jean Silva, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, Anisia Aylon, CAB, Alan Sherman, KCH Civic Association, Tom Hurtubise, Queens Zoo, and Latisha T. Williams, Deputy Administrator.

### **Welcome**

Chair Silver welcomed the Board and individually welcomed our two new Board members – Terry Tang, appointed by Council Member Koo, and Andrew Hollweck, appointed by Council Member Koslowitz. They each gave brief bios of themselves and expressed their excitement in joining the Alliance Board. Chair Silver also mentioned that Council Member Vallone had just appointed Michael Seroa to the Board and Mr. Seroa will join us at our next meeting.

Chair Silver asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 13, 2017 Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. All Directors presented approved the minutes.

Chair Silver reminded all that they had received a copy of the amended by-laws discussed at our last meeting. As there were no comments or changes, a motion was made and seconded to approve the amended bylaws. All Directors present approved the bylaws.

Chair Silver explained to the Board that Parks has performed a thorough review of our approach to managing large parks culminating in a thoughtful restructuring of our management system. As a result of this process, Janice will now have oversight of all park operations and a Deputy Administrator, whom Janice will introduce, to assist with the day to day oversight.

### **Executive Director Report**

Janice Melnick introduced Latisha T. Williams as our new Deputy Administrator of Flushing Meadows Corona Park and mentioned how happy we were to have her join us in this new position. Latisha greeted all and gave a brief bio of her experience beginning as a 14-year old intern in our Greenhouse and working her way up the ranks, while also being awarded a PhD.

Janice then gave a brief presentation on 2017: A Year in Review. Highlights included volunteers, stewardship, our docent program, events and the equipment and seasonal staffing the Alliance funded.

Janice also mentioned that we have received several special event permit applications for new events. Those requests for multi-day large-scale events have been denied however there were also permits for one-day events that are being reviewed. There was a question about large-scale festivals and Janice clarified that the many free festivals that take place in the park would continue but she was referring to

paid ticketed events that were being reviewed. She asked all to forward any inquiries regarding these activities directly to her.

Janice also discussed the NYS Pavilion Concrete RFP that will be issued within the next couple of months. The Board will be able to review the top candidates before one is chosen to perform the work.

### **Report from Community Advisory Board**

John Wang gave a presentation on the recent Open House that the CAB hosted on December 17, 2017 at the NY Hall of Science. They had approximately 60 attendees who were invited to participate in a series of discussions around 3 major topics: Sustainability, Programming and Beauty (Public Art, Maintenance, and Horticulture). The attendees were also asked to complete a Park User Survey; 34 completed the survey. There were a number of takeaways including that more than 70% of the people completing the survey come to the park more than once a month, people generally feel safe, people feel they are using the park as they like, and people have concerns about large festivals and events. There were additional specific suggestions as well. John went on to share future CAB plans including continuing to survey park users, host another open house, hold a spring stewardship project or event, and broaden their community partnerships.

Chair Silver shared a chart that had been prepared when the Alliance and CAB were first formed that shows the roles and responsibilities of Parks, the Alliance, and the CAB. It was agreed that hosting an Open House to get the feelings and opinions of Park users clearly fell within the roles of the CAB but that things such as Capital Projects were clearly under the purview of Parks. Events and programming could be done by Parks and/or the Alliance.

A request was made for a presentation on Capital projects. There was a question as to whether the Alliance can raise capital funding. Chair Silver noted that it could, but Capital projects are very expensive and right now funding is focused on unrestricted funds for items such as programming and staffing.

### **Governance**

Carl Rodrigues mentioned that with the changes to the bylaws, we do have several vacancies on the board. He asked if anyone had any suggestions, to please share them with either him or Janice.

Carl mentioned that Janice will be submitting the needed paperwork to officially register with the NYS Charities Bureau.

Carl presented the Governance Committee's proposed slate of officers: Mitchell J. Silver, Chair, Carol Conslato, Vice-Chair, Patty Ornst, Treasurer, and Danny Zausner, Secretary. He asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers for election. All Directors present voted in favor. Thank you and congratulations to our officers.

### **Finance & Development Committee Report**

Janice reviewed the budget to date and noted a few items. On the Revenue side, she reported that while we only budgeted \$5,000 in the Other (unrestricted) category, we actually received over \$32,000 in part due to a \$25,000 donation by the New York Mets, thanks to Danny Zausner's efforts. She also mentioned that we have already met our goal of \$15,000 for film shoots and hope that we may get more before the end of the year. And of course the Gala exceeded our modest goal and raised just over

\$45,000. Since we only spent \$2,231.57, this is an excellent percentage of cost vs monies raised. On the Expense side, she pointed out that while we budgeted \$205,000 for equipment, we have actually spent \$211,888.19 to date. This is due to the equipment coming in at a slightly higher fee than the original estimates. We will be able to make up this short-fall with additional monies received and still be ahead in our net budget. She also mentioned that the staffing and improvement amounts will go up as we enter season in April and will bring on seasonal staff and the portable restroom trailer. Lastly, Janice mentioned that we have ordered decals with the Alliance logo and website which will be placed on the vehicles donated by the Alliance and on the garbage cans that have been ordered. Andrea Hirsch asked if our logo has been registered. Janice will check and take appropriate action.

Patty Ornst shared with the Board that we will again host our gala on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Some expressed concern about weather but all agreed that you can never control the weather. Chair Silver said that we should make this our signature event much as other parks have and that we should take what worked, such as the amazing food, but have a more party atmosphere with music and dancing.

### **New Business**

The 2018 meeting schedule was provided to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.