

Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Meeting of the Board of Directors
USTA National Tennis Center
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens
Friday, April 29 2018, at 9:00 am

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

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 Masis Sarkissian, Councilman Lancman's office.

Welcome

Chair Silver welcomed the Board and announced that we had two new Board members appointed – James Gennaro, appointed by Council Member Lancman, and Michael Serao, appointed by Council Member Vallone - although neither was able to attend. (Michael Serao later resigned from the Board and Vickie Schnepps was appointed by CM Vallone to fill his position.)

Chair Silver asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 2, 2018 Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. All Directors present approved the minutes.

Chair Silver proudly announced that there were two Capital projects in Flushing Meadows Corona Park that received Design Excellence Awards from the Public Design Commission - Fountain of the Fairs and NYS Pavilion.

Executive Director Report

Janice Melnick informed the Board that she registered the Alliance with COIB and will be attending a training in May.

Janice introduced Meira Berkower, Director of Planning & Project Management for Queens Parks, who gave a brief update on FMCP Capital projects. She showed that since 2012, there has been \$352,991,000 devoted to Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Chair Silver stated that while some of the projects are large infrastructure projects, no other park has received as much funding as FMCP.

Report from Community Advisory Board

John Wang noted that the CAB was recommending the Board fund four items including translation services for the CAB meetings, a temporary Art in the Park program, and scenic frames. He also mentioned that the CAB had received a grant and will be offering fitness programs, including Bhagra dance in conjunction with the Queens Museum's outdoor film series, and a walking photo tour.

Finance & Development Committee Report

Janice Melnick delivered the report since Patty Ornst was not able to attend the meeting. Janice presented the FY 18 Budget to date and explained that an “estimated column” had been added since we would not have a final accounting until the fiscal year closes at the end of June. She also presented the proposed FY 2019 budget. There was a discussion regarding restricted vs. unrestricted funding, where restricted funding includes grants that must be used for a particular project or program. The Board spent less than expected and received more revenue than expected, putting our finances in good shape for now. We had planned for the decrease in the annual USTA funding from \$350K to \$200K and had put in cash reserve as a line item. The proposed 2019 budget will use some of that reserve but will still keep a cash reserve line item. The proposed FY19 budget compared to the 2018 budget includes more staffing, less equipment, and the same amount of free public programming, although Janice mentioned that the park used to receive funding from CM Ferreras-Copeland for the annual Shocktoberfest event and she would have to try to raise those funds from other sources. The budget also included \$2,000 for the CAB, \$10,000 for the temporary Art in the Park project, and \$2,000 for scenic frames. Vicky Morales asked why the Board was giving the CAB funding. Carol Conslato noted that each entity has a different role. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the budget line item for the CAB should be changed to “community outreach.”

She also mentioned a line item to hire a consultant to do a Strategic Plan for the board. Chair Silver mentioned this might be a good time with new Board members. Andrew Hollweck said that he would endorse funding a plan and thinks it would be important for the Board as we move forward. Other Board members asked if they could receive a funding proposal to bring to their local elected officials for such things as the annual Shocktoberfest. Janice will provide that information to them.

Chair Silver asked for a motion to adopt the budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. There were nine approvals and one abstention.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.