

**Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (Indoor Training Facility)  
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens  
November 15, 2019  
9:00am**

**Board Members and Executive Director in Attendance:** Julissa Bisono, Ken Cohen, Tom Finkelppearl, James Gennaro, Jim Haddad, Andrea Hirsch, Andrew Hollweck, Janice Melnick, Patty Ornst, Victoria Schneps-Yunis, Jean C. Silva, Mitchell Silver, Terry Tang, Michelle Villagomez, Edwin Wong and Daniel Zausner.

**Board Members Not in Attendance:** Vicky Morales (representing Borough President Melinda Katz and Ali Davis.

**Also in Attendance:** Meira Berkower, Anisia Ayon, Jacqueline Colson, Juliet Page, Rick Little, and Salmaan Khan.

**Report from Chair**

Mitchell Silver announced that Raul Garcia has stepped down from the Board and we hope to fill this seat soon. Additionally, Tom Finkelppearl has stepped down as the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs and is, in turn, leaving the Alliance board as well. Many of the board members thanked Tom for all of the work he did as both Cultural Affairs Commissioner and as a board member. It was noted how important Tom's support of the Alliance was, especially as we were such a new organization.

Mitchell Silver asked the committee members to review the minutes from the August 2, 2019 meeting if they had not already done so. A motion was made to approve the minutes. All Directors present voted in favor.

**Report from Community Advisory Board**

Jean Silva discussed the CAB's last meeting and explained that she has been inviting various speakers that have a connection to the park to speak about what they do. They were pleased that Marilyn "Mac" McAndrews, District Manager of Community Board 7 was able to attend and speak with the group. She was joined by Kim O'hanian, Parks Chair of Community Board 7 and a CAB member. The Parks Enforcement Patrol was also in attendance and spoke about their role in the park.

**Report from Executive Director**

Janice Melnick gave a brief capital update. She was pleased to report that both the Reflecting Pools and NYS Pavilion Projects have both started. They are 18-month construction projects due to the complexity of the projects but are underway. She also discussed that while the Lawrence Street Playground construction was complete and the playground was open to the public, the comfort station has been closed for renovations.

Janice reported that Flushing Meadows Corona Park was the recipient of a new soccer pitch that was installed on the paved area just north of the Fountain of the Planets. This installation is part of the

Mayor's Fund soccer initiative. Chirlane McCray was in attendance along with Borough Commissioner Mike Dockett and a couple of professional soccer players. The pitch is already being used heavily.

Janice gave an update on wayfinding stating that an Open Bid was put out for design firms.

Lastly, Janice thanked Patty Ornst for her dedication to making this year's annual fundraising gala a success. She also thanked the board for stepping up this year, especially those who sponsored or supported the event. She then showed a slide show of pictures depicting all the fun had by all.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance and Development gave an update on the FY20 budget. In general, we are in very good shape as we have already raised more money in several categories including film shoots and of course the gala, and have spent less than anticipated. The trend is looking very good.

Patty Ornst then gave a report on the gala. She told the board that we made \$75,150 at the gala this year compared to \$67,700 in 2018. Our expenses were slightly higher - \$2,831 this year compared to \$2,592 in 2018. We had more people attend and more board support. Tom Finkelppearl congratulated us and said that in his experience it is amazing how that the vast majority of what we make is net profit – he said that just doesn't happen and we should be proud.

Governance reported that Janice submitted the required COIB report listing all those that gave over \$5,000.

Governance made a motion to separate the Finance from the Development Committee and instead of 2 committees. A motion was made and approved unanimously.

Jim Haddad then announced the slate of officers for election. They slate was Danny Zausner for Chair, Patty Ornst for Vice Chair, Michelle Villagomez for Secretary, and Andrew Hollweck. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Jean Silva announced that after talking to her CAB membership she felt she should nominate herself for Vice Chair. Tom Finkelppearl spoke stating that while he appreciates all that Jean does, as the representative of the community she is in the correct position and that he thought Patty made more sense at Chair. After thoughtful consideration, Jean decided that she still want to run for Chair. Votes were held individually for officer positions. Danny Zausner was unanimously voted in as Chair, Patty Ornst was voted in as Vice Chair with a clear majority, Michelle Villagomez was voted in as Secretary unanimously, and Andrew Hollweck was voted in as Treasurer unanimously. All thanked Mitchell Silver was leading us as Chair for these past four years and stating that we could not have become as successful without him. Mitchell Silver stated that he was looking forward to continuing as an active board member of the Alliance.

### **Central Park Conservancy Partnership Lab**

Salmaan Khan from the Central Park Conservancy and Juliet Page and Rick Little from Julep Consulting introduced themselves to the Board and discussed the new partnership. They explained their role in this new endeavor and what the board should expect moving forward. They informed all that they would be reaching out shortly for short individual interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.