

Parks Committee Meeting October 10, 2006

The Parks Committee met on Wednesday, October 10, 2006 at 6 P.M. at the district office to allow neighbors in the area surrounding the Dyker Beach Golf Course and the proposed junior golf course site to present their concerns to the representatives from The City Parks Foundation.

The City Parks Foundation is a non-profit organization that tries to improve parks in all neighborhoods. The foundation currently runs a golf program for 85 children at Dyker Beach as well as programs in twelve other parks. The junior golf course at Dyker Beach is expected to cost \$5 million. Half of the money will be used for construction of the center, and the remainder will be placed into an operating endowment to pay the annual costs of maintaining and programming the facility. Work should be completed by September 2007. The program is free, but children from 5 to 17 years of age must register to be members. The Parks Department chose the fifteen acre site and presented it to the City Parks Foundation. The facility would consist of a six-hole golf course, a practice putting green, a chipping green with sand trap, a covered driving range, and a clubhouse with classroom space for lessons, offices and bathrooms. No food will be served.

Neighbors expressed concerns about the height and the kind of fencing that will be used, the vehicle entrance, parking, construction hours, number of trees being cut down, supervision, clean up responsibilities. Representatives from Board 11 felt that they should have been consulted. The executive director of the City Parks Foundation expressed his desire for input from the community. The Parks Chair explained that the Parks Department and the City Parks Foundation do not need the permission of the Community Board or the residents to develop projects in the parks. They consult all of us as a matter of courtesy and out of respect for the opinions of the people who actually live in the community and understand the problems involved.

The Parks Department reported that the area involved was overgrown and that many trees had to be cut down because they were dangerous, growing at unnatural angles and through fences. Before any trees were removed a tree survey was taken and trees were tagged. A consultant approved by the Parks Department checked the trees, and a second consultant was present to oversee the removal. Trees will be planted when the project is completed. There is no wildlife sanctuary in that part of the park and New York State approved the project environmentally. The vehicular entrance will be moved, and a traffic light will be requested.

City Parks Foundation agreed to meet again with the residents of the area.

Respectfully submitted,



Eleanor M. Petty