

Minutes of the Parks Committee Meeting of April 5, 2006

The Parks Committee met on Wednesday, April 5 to view a presentation by the City Parks Foundation and to discuss short and long term improvements needed at Owl's Head Park. Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel attended this meeting.

The representatives from City Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization working in the city parks, presented a proposal for a free golf course for junior golfers from 5 to 17 to be built on the grounds of the Dyker Beach Golf Course in an unused area bordered by Poly Place and 14th Avenue. This site is presently overgrown and littered. No trees would have to be taken down, but pruning must be done and debris removed. The course will have six holes, practice greens, a classroom, and a driving range with balls going into nets. The perimeter fence would be repaired. It would be a local facility for the neighborhood and may have 4 or 5 parking spaces for staff members. The facility is covered by New York City's insurance.

City Parks Foundation will appear before the Arts Commission for approval of the design. The entrance will be on 14th Avenue and can be locked. City Parks Foundation wants our support for their proposal.

Bernadette Hoban, the President of Friends and Neighbors of Owl's Head Park, gave a power point presentation on the conditions in Owl's Head Park. The reconstruction of the park house and all of the delays involved caused the park to lose its attendant who had done a great job enforcing the park rules. The Commissioner assured us that a park attendant will be returned to the park as soon as the park house is completed. People have been barbecuing in the park and using the grassy areas for team sports. The trees have not been pruned and very little new planting has been done. Soil erosion is a major problem in the park. Walkways are deteriorating, and the roots of the large trees are surfacing. The construction workers drive trucks across the grass and park near the construction side inside of the park. Leaves are piled two feet high in many sections. There is a serious drainage problem in several areas.

Commissioner Spiegel said that all elected officials need to be contacted to obtain capital money for this project. At this time work on Owl's Head Park is number ten on Community Board Ten's capital budget list and should be moved to a higher priority. Ideas were suggested for a volley ball court between the dog run and the skate park on a somewhat level piece of land along the highway. It was also suggested that Park Rangers arrange tours of the park presenting the history and discussing the abundance of interesting trees in the park.

A motion was made and approved for submission to the full board. The motion is as follows: The Committee moves that letters be sent to all elected officials asking that money be obtained for a capital improvement project in Owl's Head Park for the purpose of addressing erosion control through landscaping, fencing, planting and the installation of new drainage systems.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M Petty

Eleanor M. Petty