

The Parks Committee met on January 25, 2007 to discuss the design to renovate the existing ball fields on 97<sup>th</sup> Street and Shore Road and to receive an update from Art De Cesario, parks manager, on conditions in Community Board Ten parks.

The ball fields at 97<sup>th</sup> Street and Shore Road will be converted to synthetic turf. This will be a multifunctional field. Two million dollars was acquired from City Councilman Vincent Gentile for this project. The synthetic turf will have a minimal amount of seams to make maintenance easier and to insure that the field does not come apart. The soccer fields will have tic marks for delineation. Three handball courts will be eliminated, but all trees will be left untouched. New little league and tee ball fields will be installed and bleachers and fountains will be added. The walkways will be reworked and efforts made to buffer the noises. The upper walkway will be cleaned up to provide overlooks for views of the Narrows and the fields below. Lighting already exists. More benches will be installed and low plantings will add to the visual effect. There is handicap access at 97<sup>th</sup> Street.

There will be a twelve- inch excavation, and the 900 yards of soil will be reused at the site to possibly enhance the sledding hill. The construction will have a minimal impact on the area with trucks entering from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Construction will take from ten to twelve months and be completed in the summer of 2008.

Art DeCesario opened a discussion concerning the Leif Ericson Park playground to be built on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 66<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> Streets. The project will be starting in the spring and will take about 12 months to complete. The playground will be ADA compliant and have no curbs. The rubberized safety surface will be flush with the hard surface. There will be a ramp onto the Viking boat and openings next to benches to allow handicap access. The City Parks Department has hired an accessibility coordinator. The absence of enough playground equipment for the handicapped in our parks was discussed, and the committee agreed to investigate the issue.

The bathroom at Owl's Head Park was opened again after an underground valve was changed. McKinley Park has had a sewer main break that closed its bathroom indefinitely. It is a collapsed line buried below six feet and beyond the ability of the DEP to fix. Private contractor money must be used. A statue of an otter on 75<sup>th</sup> Street and Colonial Road was vandalized, and there has been graffiti in the parks. The troll was stolen from Leif Ericson Park on Fort Hamilton Parkway. The Parks Department makes an effort to eradicate graffiti within 24 hours. Roots of trees often lift up the pathways in the parks, but the replacement of sidewalks is the responsibility of the DOT.

At the end of the meeting the committee was one member short of a quorum and could not vote to approve the project at 97<sup>th</sup> Street and Shore Road. We ask for a motion from the floor to approve that project.

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor M. Petty, Chairperson

*Eleanor M. Petty/ag*