

Joint Committee Meeting of the Parks and Youth Committees

The Parks and Youth Committees met together on Monday, June 11, 2007 to consider a proposal put forth by the Youth Committee to keep two parks open late in the evening seven days a week during the summer of 2007 to provide places for the youth of Bay Ridge to gather.

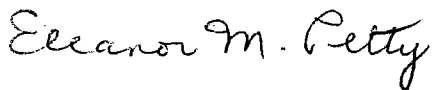
The two parks under consideration were the 79th Street Park at 79th Street and Shore Road and McKinley Park on Fort Hamilton Parkway between 73rd and 75th Streets. Representatives from the Police Department were present to discuss the feasibility of the proposal. It was decided that the Parks Department would be approached for approval to keep both of these parks open in July and August of 2007 from 8P.M. to 12P.M. The community would be informed of the extended hours, and teenagers from 14 to 17 years of age would be encouraged to go to these two parks instead of hanging out on the streets.

These parks were chosen because of their locations away from residential areas and their relative easy accessibility to public transportation. Both parks have playgrounds and as such are required to close at dusk. Parks without playgrounds are open to the public until 1 A.M. Arrangements would have to be made with the Parks Department to keep the parks open. It would be advantageous to have a park attendant to keep the bathrooms open and perhaps to make minimal equipment available.

There would be no ongoing supervision, but the 68th Precinct would be asked to consider requesting that the teenagers leave the park at midnight and to be present at that time. The Parks Department and our local elected officials would be approached to see if events could be scheduled on a somewhat regular basis throughout the summer to provide more worthwhile activities for the teenagers.

A motion was put forth to send the following letters: a letter to Commissioner Spiegel and one to Commissioner Benepe requesting permission to use the two parks in this fashion and to ask their assistance in providing a park attendant and some organized activities and letters to local elected officials asking their help in financing some other activities in those two parks during the summer.

Respectfully submitted,



Eleanor M. Petty, Parks Chairperson