

Report on the Parks Committee Meeting of Thursday, September 6, 2007

The Parks Committee meeting commenced at 7:45. The devastation of trees from the recent storm was discussed. The Parks Commissioner reported that trees would be replanted in eligible tree sites in the Fall and Spring seasons. Bids are due this month for replacement of fencing and playground equipment in lower Leif Ericson Park. The area will be handicapped accessible. Councilman Gentile has arranged for a Penny Harvest Fundraiser with matching funds earmarked for tree replacement.

The soil erosion problem at Owl's Head Park was addressed. There is no master plan for renovation. The Parks Department needs capital money from elected officials. The Parks Department does have cribbing material available and will look into the possibility of replacing deteriorating cribbing material along 68<sup>th</sup> Street between Shore Road and Colonial Road.

A group of residents from the area of 97<sup>th</sup> Street and Shore Road attended the meeting to discuss the renovation of the ball fields in that area. They feel they are unable to use the park area and have no input into what is done there because St. Patrick's has taken over the use of the parkland. It was explained that St. Patrick's has about 60% of the permits for the field according to an agreement with the Parks Department that St. Patrick's is responsible for maintaining the field. The group present did not at first understand how this system works. They complained about the parking problems caused by the people coming to watch the games and the fact that the field is locked and that often the area is left dirty. It was suggested that they form a small volunteer group and become active in raising funds for further renovation of that area. Other groups can apply for permits to use that field. St. Patrick's must abide by the agreement or lose their permit.

Geoff Amend, the leader of a group sponsoring the dog run in Owl's Head Park spoke on his plans for the future and asked the Parks Commissioner what procedures he should follow. A few days after this meeting Mr. Amend approached the Community Board with a request for a letter of support for a grant he is seeking from New Yorkers for Parks to design a new dog run. He was told that any plans must use the existing footprint. The grant requires ~~letter~~ several letters of support, and Mr. Amend has contacted the offices of Marty Golden, Vincent Gentile and Janel Hyer - Spencer. I ask for a motion from the floor that the Community Board send a letter lending its support for this grant proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eleanor M. Petty*

Eleanor M. Petty, Parks Chairperson