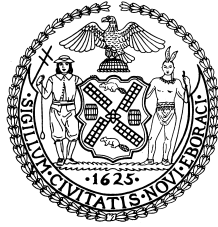


James G. Clynes
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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd Street (Park-Madison)
Carnegie Room
Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:30 PM

CB8M Members in attendance: Matthew Bondy, James Clynes, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura.

Public Member in attendance: Judy Schneider.

Excused: Daniel Dornbaum, Scott Falk, Sharon Pope

1. Three Parks Dept. Options for Future Use of the Queensboro Oval

Parks Dept. officials presented three options for the renovation and future use of the Queensboro Oval. Officials described these proposals as “potential alternative options” and “not an exhaustive list” of possibilities for the Oval. These ideas come as the City’s license with Sutton East Tennis for the use of the Oval nears expiration this August.

In several resolutions, CB8M has asked to City to return the Oval to the public full-time, year-round, starting in August.

As presented, the Parks Dept.’s three options include:

--Creating a turf field that could accommodate a variety of sports, such as soccer, softball and WHAT. That approximately \$6.1 million project would take 3-5 years to put in place.

--Dividing the use of the park into space for 4 hard tennis courts and a smaller multi-use turf field—a \$5 million project that also would be 3-5 years in the making;

--Contracting with a concessionaire to manage and maintain the park and provide fee based programming for 6 months in the fall and winter. In the remaining 6 months, park activities would be free of charge. No fundraising would be needed for this option, which could be activated sooner than options 1 and 2.

None of these options would result in the Oval becoming open to the public year-round starting this year. The first two options would likely involve the Parks Dept. renting the Oval on a year-by-year basis until the park could be renovated. The third option would continue the privatization of the park on a long-term basis.

As a result, at the committee’s request, Mark McIntyre, executive director of the non-profit Riverside Clay Tennis Assn. provided some thoughts on how members of the public could obtain public space and self-fund its operations (versus waiting for City funding). At Riverside Clay Tennis, donations and membership fees provided most of the funding needed for park programs, Mr. McIntyre said.

For their part, attendees made various suggestions for the future of the Oval. Broadly, these ranged from annually renting the space for half-a year to the widespread desire to make the Oval a year-round public park this year. To seek City funding for Queensboro Oval improvements, Council Member Ben Kallos asked the committee, generally, how it would like a deprivatized Oval used. Members agreed that that it should be a multi-use recreational park that accommodates various sports.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the City's license with the Sutton East Tennis Club to occupy the Queensboro Oval Park for much of the year expires in August, 2017; and

WHEREAS CB8M has repeatedly asked the Parks Dept. to end the privatization of the Queensboro Oval Park and return it to the public permanently, year-round, starting in August 2017; and

WHEREAS the very heavily populated Upper East Side of Manhattan urgently needs additional parkland, which the Queensboro Oval would provide; and

WHEREAS the Upper East Side of Manhattan has among the least public open space of any district in the City of New York; and

WHEREAS the City's Parks Dept. has provided elected officials, CB8M and the community with three proposals for the future use of the Queensboro Oval, including: 1) a plan for a multi-sports turf field on the site; 2) a proposal that would provide for both tennis courts and a shortened multi-use field at the park; 3) a proposal for using a concessionaire to manage and maintain the space and provide fee-based programming in fall and winter; and

WHEREAS none of these proposals include provisions for returning the Oval to the public full-time, year round, starting in August 2017, when the license with the Oval's current concessionaire expires; therefore,

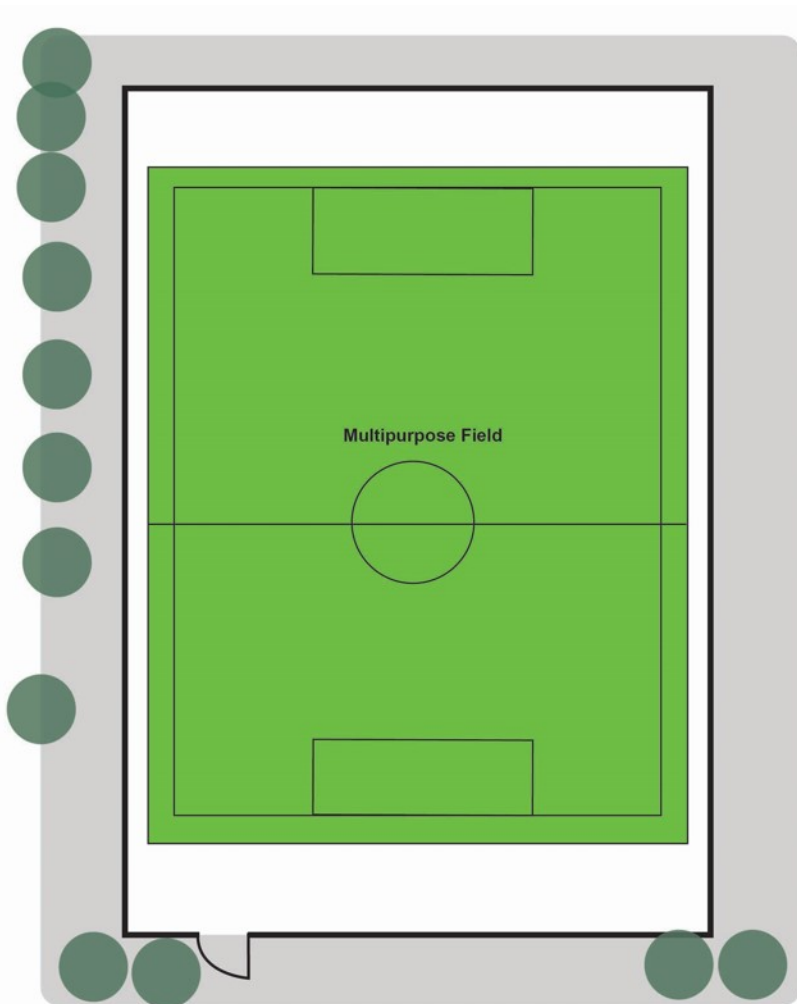
BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan reiterates its firm position that the Queensboro Oval Park must be returned to the public full-time, year-round, beginning with the August 2017 conclusion of the NYC Parks Department's contract with the Sutton East Tennis Club, which now occupies the Queensboro Oval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan recommends using the deprivatized Queensboro Oval as a multi-use recreational park that accommodates various sports. This would be as conceptualized--but not limited to--the Parks Dept.'s Option One for the future use of the Queensboro Oval.

VOTE: 9-0-0

In favor: Matthew Bondy, James Clynes, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura.

Public Member in Favor: Judy Schneider.



Rendering of the Parks Dept.'s proposed Option 1 for the future use of the Queensboro Oval.

Susan Evans and Margaret Price
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee