

**Flushing Meadows Corona Park Alliance
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, October 13 at 9:00 a.m.
USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center/Indoor Training Facility**

Executive Committee Members in attendance: Mitchell J. Silver, Chair, Carol Conslato, Carl Rodrigues, John Wang, Edwin Wong, Daniel Zausner, and Janice Melnick. **ABSENT:** CM Ferreras-Copeland.

Other attendees: Vickie Karp, Jean Silva, Anisia Ayon, David Aronov, and John Albert.

Welcome and Introduction of New Directors

Mitchell Silver welcomed everyone and stated that we did have a quorum present. He then announced that we have two new Directors – Vicky Morales will now serve as Borough President Katz’s designee on the board, and Julissa Bisono, filling the seat vacated by Javier Valdes who resigned, was appointed to the Board by Council Member Ferreras-Copeland.

Report from Chair

Mitchell Silver asked the committee members to review the minutes from the July 14, 2017 meeting if they had not already done so. As there were no comments or corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes. All Directors present voted in favor. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Chair Silver then discussed what a great success our first fundraising event, Evening Under the Sphere, was with over 150 supporters joining us for a very enjoyable evening. He thanked Patty Ornst and Carol Conslato, Co-Chairs of the Gala, for all of their hard work and support. He also thanked the rest of the committee, Edwin Wong and John Wang, and especially thanked John for arranging for all of the great food. He mentioned that he especially loved the Malaysian style burgers.

Executive Director Report

Janice Melnick thanked everyone for their hard work making the Evening Under the Sphere a great success. She showed a slideshow presentation of photos taken at the event. She thanked all of our sponsors, especially ConEd and Delta, and our In-kind sponsors and supporters, especially Queens Night Market and the Queens Museum who provided all of the tables, chairs, and sound system. She also thanked her staff who were heroic in getting the event ready despite rain about 45 minutes before the event began. She noted that the \$50 price point for tickets made it possible for many community members to attend, and that the appeal of an outdoor cocktail party with great local cuisine is a good model for an annual signature event.

Janice then discussed the new Ai Weiwei exhibit, Good Fences Make Good Neighbors, at the Unisphere. Mitchell Silver gave additional information about the entire exhibit spread throughout the city and noted that the 3 premier locations were in Central Park, Washington Square Park, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This is very exciting for our park.

Lastly, Janice gave everyone a flyer for our annual Shocktoberfest event on Sunday, October 29th from 12noon – 3pm and encouraged all to attend. She thanked Council Member Ferreras-Copeland for providing \$10,000 in funding for this event.

Report from Community Advisory Board

John Wang reported on the CAB's last meeting and said they had developed a Beta website and logo. He said the CAB was awarded a \$3,000 Healthy Initiatives Grant from the City Parks Foundation to help them build awareness within the community. They have also applied for a \$5,000 Capacity Fund grant to raise awareness of the CAB through marketing materials and outreach. He went on to discuss how attendance has been dropping off and they are looking for ways to bring more community members to their meetings. They plan to combine their December CAB meeting with an Open House to attract more people. He asked the Alliance to provide \$1,000 for the endeavor.

Governance Committee

Carl Rodrigues stated that the City was the subject of litigation challenging the makeup of the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Alliance Board of Directors brought by Councilmember Rory I. Lancman. The City has determined that it is in its best interest to resolve the case amicably, and without any admission of fault by any party. Under the terms of the agreement, the Governance Committee is proposing the following amendment to the Bylaws: We move that the Board to the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park approve an amendment to the Bylaws that would add appointees of each City Council Member representing every District that abuts Flushing Meadows Corona Park (the 19th, 20th, 24th, and 29th Districts in Queens in addition to the representative from the 21st District that already sits on the Board) and two additional Mayoral appointees. If approved, this change to the Bylaws would increase the Board of Directors from a body comprised of fifteen Directors to one that has twenty-one Directors.

There were no questions and the Executive Committee agreed to bring this to the full board for a vote.

Finance & Development Committee

Edwin Wong also thanked everyone for the hard work in making our Gala a success, especially Carol, Patty and Janice. He highlighted a few items on our budget report. On the Revenue side, he reported that we received \$59,000 from Council Member Ferreras-Copeland even though it was not originally included in our initial proposed budget. He also mentioned that while we only budgeted \$5,000 in the Other (unrestricted) category, we have actually already received \$28,833.33 thanks to a \$25,000 donation by the New York Mets, thanks to Danny Zausner's efforts. On the Expense side, he pointed out that while we budgeted \$205,000 for equipment, we have actually spent \$211,888.19 to date. This is due to the equipment coming in at a slightly higher fee than the original estimates we had. We will be able to make up this short-fall with additional monies received and still be ahead in our net budget.

Janice Melnick also noted that while all of the monies from the Gala have not yet come in, we made just over \$45,000 and only spent \$2,231.57. This is an excellent percentage of cost vs monies raised.

New Business

Chair Silver discussed the 2018 meeting schedule. There was a brief discussion about having Executive Committee meetings on the same day as full Board meetings, but he pointed out that if issues arise, we would have no time to resolve them before the full Board meetings. It was agreed to keep the meetings on separate dates, except in an emergency. Proposed dates were offered for Executive Committee meetings as follows: January 19, April 13, July 20, and October 12. All meetings are on Fridays and will begin at 9am in the Olmsted Center Annex Bid room. A motion was made to approve the 2018 meeting dates. All Directors present voted in favor. The schedule was approved by the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.