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**September 15, 2014 - March 31, 2015**

**NEWTOWN CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT PROJECT UPDATE**

In 2009, City Parks Foundation (CPF) was named the administrator of $7 million in mitigation funds related to a New York State lawsuit, surrounding the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant project. In April 2013, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) transferred an additional $1.2 million to CPF. These funds were dedicated to “community environmental benefit projects” in the areas proximate to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. CPF engaged in an extensive community consultation process by conducting community surveys and hosting community meetings.

Based on the results of this community consultation process, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) designated four projects, with the highest priority for implementation, as “primary” projects. The four chosen projects are the Greenpoint Boathouse Project, the Constructed Wetland Pilot Project, the Dutch Kills Basin Park Project, and the Tree Planting and Stormwater Management Project.

**Greenpoint Boathouse and Environmental Education Center**

**Total Project Expenses to Date: $63,709.43**

**Background**

The Greenpoint Boathouse and Environmental Education Project proposed to provide a location to store more than 60 kayaks and canoes. The Boathouse Project also proposed to provide space for environmental and historical education as well as a skills training facility to ensure small boat safety. The Boathouse Project planned to utilize the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center (GMDC) site at 1155 Manhattan Avenue. The proposal called for the reconstruction of the GMDC bulkhead as well as the rehabilitation of the basement of the GMDC building. The rebuilt bulkhead would become a public pedestrian promenade and the space in the basement of the GMDC building would house the boathouse and environmental center.

North Brooklyn Boat Club (NBBC), a member of the Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks and Planning (GWAPP), has spearheaded the project, serving as the representative of the community in working to implement the boathouse project. Christine Holowacz and Dewey Thompson are serving as the primary representatives of NBBC/GWAPP for this project.

GMDC and NBBC/GWAPP were in negotiations on and off since the project was first approved by DEC in September 2011. The two parties were unable to come to an agreement on the terms of the lease. The primary areas of contention were the rent as well as the question of what constitutes legitimate use of the space.

Due to the failed lease negotiations, the Greenpoint Boathouse and Environmental Education Center community sponsors requested the opportunity to explore a project change in location from the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center. DEC authorized the community sponsors to consider alternate locations provided the alternative site selection was restricted to Kings County, on Newtown Creek and within the study/ impact areas of the EBP.

**Latest Update**

The community sponsors were able to identify an alternative site that met the selection criteria laid out by DEC. The proposed alternative is the parcel of located at 437 McGuinness Boulevard (parcel 2477 lot 40) that currently serves as the temporary home of the NBBC. The North Brooklyn Boat Club is working on finalizing an agreement to bring the Greenpoint Community Boathouse and Environmental Education Center to this location. The boathouse and environmental education center would be implemented in conjunction with a newly constructed four-story building at 437 McGuinness Boulevard. The North Brooklyn Boat Club would take ownership of approximately 6700 sq feet of this newly constructed building. The remaining portion of the building would be owned and occupied by Broadway Stages, a private corporation which is constructing the new building.

Additionally, as part of the project, approximately 36 feet of the bulkhead alongside Newtown Creek would be reconstructed in order to ensure safe boat launches.

**Constructed Wetland Frame Project Update**

**Total Project Expenses to Date: $103,509.66**

**Background**

The Constructed Wetland Pilot Project proposed to install lightweight stainless steel wetland frames at various locations from the cement bulkheads that extend between the Pulaski Bridge and the mouth of Dutch Kills opposite the Whale Creek Nature Walk. Sarah Durand, Associate Professor of Natural Science at LaGuardia Community College, serves as the primary community partner and wetland ecology expert for the project. City Parks Foundation has contracted with Carter Craft, Outside New York, to serve as project manager for the wetland frames project.

Durand and Craft conducted experiments by installing test buckets in the project area in order to determine what wetland plants and mussel species are best suited for the frames. Based on the results of these experiments frames were fabricated, installed, and plants have been established in the installations. Through the summer, with the help of workers from LaGuardia Community College and the North Brooklyn Boat Club, Durand and Craft had installed 16 frames.

**Latest Update**

During the winter, Durand and Craft scouted additional potential sites to install the remainder of the frames. The New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) lot on the north bank of Newtown Creek was identified as one promising potential location. MTA has agreed to house the remainder of the wetland frames at this lot.

The final phase of the project will begin in the summer of 2015. During this final phase, the remainder of the frames will be constructed and installed along Newtown Creek. As part of the project, an internship program will also be instituted at LaGuardia Community College. Student participants in this program will help to plant wetland flora in the installed frames.

LaGuardia Community College has agreed to maintain and utilize the frames as part of science courses. Durand is currently working on developing a detailed maintenance plan.

**Dutch Kills Basin Park Project**

**Total Project Expense to Date: $2,500.00**

The Dutch Kills Basin Park Project proposed to construct a park with athletic fields and waterfront access. The proposed park location is along 47th Avenue between 27thand 29th Streets, in the area adjoining the Dutch Kills basin. Long Island City Roots is serving as the primary community representative for the proposed project.

City Parks Foundation partnered with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in evaluating the proposed park location. TPL submitted a letter of inquiry to the property owners of the parcels required to construct the park in the proposed location.  The property owners did not respond to TPL’s letter. While awaiting response from the property owners, City Parks Foundation contracted with Goodman-Marks Associates to perform an appraisal of the proposed park location. The appraised value of the property greatly exceeded the proposed project budget.

The community sponsors requested that DEC allow Long Island City Roots to attempt to identify an alternative location within the impact area (1/2 mile of Newtown Creek). In June 2014, DEC granted this request and authorized CPF to set aside $2 million of the Newtown Creek Funds for one year to give the community sponsor time to identify an alternative site.

**Latest Update**

Long Island City Roots continues to seek potential alternative locations in the impacted area.

**Tree Planting and Stormwater Management Projects**

**Total Project Expense to Date: $ 0.00**

**Background**

According to the list of approved projects, $500,000.000 would be designated for tree planting and stormwater management in Greenpoint, Maspeth, and Long Island City in the event that funding remained after the other primary projects were completed.

**Latest Update**

DEC has determined that sufficient funds will remain to implement this project. CPF is currently seeking community partners from the impacted neighborhoods to form a Community Advisory Group for the project. It is anticipated that that the Community Advisory Group will be formed by early May. The Community Advisory Group will then idenify locations to implement tree planting and stormwater management projects in the impacted neighborhoods.

***Newtown Creek Expense Summary***

***(Through 3/31/2015)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $ 4,000,000.00  | Funding Received 11/17/09 |  |
| $3,000,000.00  | Funding Received 6/28/10 |  |
| $1,208,348.65  | NYSERDA Funds Transfer 5/9/13 |  |
|  $88,565.31 | Interest earned (as of 2/28/15) |  |
| **$ 8,289,058.89**  | **Total Funds Received** |  |
|  |  |  |
| $ (820,000.00) | City Parks Foundation Administrative Fee (Reserved) |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenses** | **Description** | **Date Range** |
| $(35,840.93) | Boathouse expenses (period of first report) | Through 8/15/2013 |
| $(2,226.90) | Boathouse expenses (period of second report) | 8/15/2013-3/31/2014 |
| $(20,901.60) | Boathouse expenses (period of third report) | 4/1/2014-9/15/2014 |
| $ (4,740.00) | Boathouse expenses (period of current report) | 9/16/2014-3/31/2015 |
| $(16,637.39) | Wetland expenses (period of first report) | Through 8/15/2013 |
| $(23,420.15) | Wetland expenses (period of second report) | 8/15/2013-3/31/2014 |
| $ (50,732.61) | Wetland expenses (period of third report) | 4/1/2014-9/15/2014 |
| $ (12,719.51) | Wetland expenses (period of current report) | 9/16/2014-3/31/2015 |
| $(2,500.00) | Dutch Kills Expenses (period of first report) | Through 8/15/2013 |
|  | **$ 7,307,194.87** | **Current Balance** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **boathouse** | **Ed Weinstein Architects** | Cost estimate work boathouse | $ (1,345.00) |
|  |  | Researched bulkhead design, researched habitat  | $ (600.00) |
|  |  | Square footage review. Cost estimate review | $ (723.25) |
|  |  | Updated boat house cost estimate | $ (1,776.75) |
|  |  | Zoning analysis | $ (295.00) |
|  | **Ed Weinstein Architects Total** |  | $ (4,740.00) |
| **boathouse Total** |  |  | $ (4,740.00) |
| **wetland** | **Blue Classroom** | Site visit 4.5 hours @ 125.00/hour | $ (562.50) |
|  |  | Site visits | $ (562.50) |
|  | **Blue Classroom Total** |  | $ (1,125.00) |
|  | **Christopher Berg** | habitat renderings | $ (360.00) |
|  | **Christopher Berg Total** |  | $ (360.00) |
|  | **Damion Lawyer** | Plant Relocation | $ (360.00) |
|  |  | Substrate Analysis and Installation | $ (1,280.00) |
|  | **Damion Lawyer Total** |  | $ (1,640.00) |
|  | **Job Right Construction** | Materials for mussel housing | $ (478.41) |
|  | **Job Right Construction Total** |  | $ (478.41) |
|  | **Ken's Booming and Boat** | 5 Hours work boat | $ (750.00) |
|  |  | Marine operator and work boat | $ (941.60) |
|  | **Ken's Booming and Boat Total** |  | $ (1,691.60) |
|  | **McLaren Engineering** | 23.50 Hours Engineering MTA site | $ (2,585.00) |
|  |  | 3 hours engineering MTA site | $ (330.00) |
|  | **McLaren Engineering Total** |  | $ (2,915.00) |
|  | **NYC Parks and Rec** | Wetland Plants | $ (266.40) |
|  | **NYC Parks and Rec Total** |  | $ (266.40) |
|  | **ONY**  | MTA Outreach, vendor oversight | $ (777.75) |
|  |  | MTA site planning, admin | $ (1,062.50) |
|  |  | Phase III planning, MTA site investigation | $ (754.50) |
|  |  | Phase III planting, planning, admin | $ (371.10) |
|  |  | student work, miscellaneous transit  | $ (1,277.25) |
|  | **ONY Total** |  | $ (4,243.10) |
| **wetland total** |  |  | $ (12,719.51) |
| **Total** |  |  | $ (17,459.51) |

**Detailed Expenses 9/16/2014-3/31/2015**