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**March 31, 2014**

**NEWTOWN CREEK ENVIROMENTAL 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: $38,067.83**

The Greenpoint Boathouse Project proposed to provide a location to store more than 60 small human propelled boats. 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 have been 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 annual rate of 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.

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 land adjacent to 51 Ash Street (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 51 Ash Street. The North Brooklyn Boat Club would take ownership of approximately 6500 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.

Newtown Creek funds would only be eligible for implementing the portion of project devoted to the Greenpoint Boathouse and Environmental Education Center.

Additionally, as part of the project, approximately 36 feet of the 51 Ash Street bulkhead alongside Newtown Creek would be reconstructed in order to ensure safe boat launches.

The proposed Greenpoint Boathouse and Environmental Education Center would directly benefit the communities immediately adjacent to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in several ways:

* The project would create waterfront access to the creek.
* The project would create opportunities for recreational programs involving human powered boats—The North Brooklyn Boat Club will offer regular public paddles free and open to anyone. These paddles will be led by trained expert guides to ensure safety.
* The project would create opportunities for ecological education—The North Brooklyn Boat Club would continue several environmental programs, including bird watching, work with filter-feeders and bio-remediation with the Newtown Creek Alliance, and participating in the Citizens Water Quality Testing initiative.

**Constructed Wetland Frame Project Update**

**Total Project Expenses to Date: $40,057.54**

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. City Parks Foundation has contracted with Carter Craft, Outside New York, to serve as project manager and Sarah Durand, Associate Professor of Natural Science at LaGuardia Community College, to serve as wetland ecology expert for the wetland frame project.

Implementing the wetland project requires three basic tasks before the wetland frames can be installed: (1) The wetland frames must be designed and constructed; (2) It must be determined what flora and fauna are best suited to be housed in the wetland frames; (3) An appropriate location for frame installation must be determined—this location must both serve as suitable habitat for the wetland species while also ensuring that the wetland frames will be maintained over the long term.

Craft and Durand have made significant progress towards these goals. Durand worked with CLIMsystems in designing the wetland frames. Craft reviewed bids from multiple fabricators and has received the frames required for phase I installation.

In recent months, Durand and Craft have been conducting experiments in the project area in order to determine what wetland plants are best suited for the frames. Additionally, the experiments will demonstrate the ideal water level for frame placement. Craft and Durand plan to begin further experiments to determine whether the frames are suitable for housing mussels.

LaGuardia Community College has indicated an interest in maintaining and utilizing the frames as part of science courses. City Parks Foundation is currently working with Dr. Burl Yearwood, Chair of the Natural Science Department at LaGuardia Community College, to determine the details of this arrangement to ensure the sustainable use of the wetland frames.

**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 27th and 29th Streets, in the area adjoining the Dutch Kills basin. Noah Kaufman, Long Island City Roots, is serving as the primary community representative for the project.

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.

City Parks Foundation is currently working with the community sponsors in an attempt to identify an alternative location for the project.

**Tree Planting and Stormwater Management Projects**

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

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 there were any funding remaining after the other primary projects were completed.

Currently, the project is on hold pending further updates on higher priority projects.

***Newtown Creek Expense Summary***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $ 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 |  |
|  66,504.82  | Interest earned (as of 7/31/13)  |  |
|  **$ 8,274,853.47**  | **Total Funds Received** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  $ (820,000.00) | City Parks Foundation Administrative Fee (Reserved) |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenses** | **Description** | **Date Range** |
|  (35,840.93) | Boathouse expenses | Through 8/15/2013 |
|  (2,226.90) | Boathouse expenses  | 8/15/2013-3/25/2014 |
|  (16,637.39) | Wetland expenses | Through 8/15/2013 |
|  (23,420.15) | Wetland expenses | 8/15/2013-3/25/2014 |
|  (2,500.00) | Dutch Kills Expenses | Through 8/15/2013 |
|  **$ 7,374,228.10**  | **Current Balance** |  |



**Detailed Expense Report August 15, 2013-March 31, 2014**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Description** | **Invoice Date** | **Amount** |
| **Boathouse** |  |  |  |
| Ed Weinstein Architects and Planning | 11/1/2013 |  (2,226.90) |
|  | Sept. 10 - located previous design studies, scanned and sent |  |  |
|  | Sept. 12 - reviewed Ash street site. Search tax map info.  |  |  |
|  | Sept. 13 - reviewed zoning issues.  |  |  |
|  | Sept. 16 - on site meeting at 51 Ash Street (437 McGuiness) |  |  |
|  | Sept. 17 - review public access requirements and demapping. Prepared zone analysis. |  |
| **Wetland** |  |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 9/1/2013 |  (3,738.00) |
|  | Aug. 1 - Phase 1 install, monitoring, project admin |  |  |
|  | Aug. 1 - BID Db update, Draft plant flyer |  |  |
|  | Aug. 2 - Phase 1 install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 6 - BID assessment, phase 1 install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 6 - Follow up with additional vendor |  |  |
|  | Aug. 7 - site visit, monitor of phase 1 install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 12 - Phase 1 (Site Visits to bidders) |  |  |
|  | Aug. 14 - Conference Call with CPF, Phase 1 Install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 15 - Phase 1 |  |  |
|  | Aug. 16 - Follow up with vendor, admin |  |  |
|  | Aug. 20 - Phase 1 Planning |  |  |
|  | Aug. 20 - Admin/ Reimbursable expenses form |  |  |
|  | Aug. 21 - Phase 1 install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 22 - Phase 1 install |  |  |
|  | Aug. 23 - Phase 1 install, Bidder due diligence, etc |  |  |
|  | Aug. 27 - BID updates, Admin/ reimbursable expenses accounting |  |  |
|  | Aug. 30 - Phase 1 install |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 10/1/2013 |  (2,678.75) |
|  | Sept. 4 - Phase 1 site visit |  |  |
|  | Sept. 6 - Admin/invoicing, plant flyer |  |  |
|  | Sept. 11 - Admin/reimbursable expenses |  |  |
|  | Sept. 12 - Admin/reimbursable expenses, plant flyer |  |  |
|  | Sept. 16 - Outreach; Phase 1 documentation; DEP outreach planning, Procurement |  |  |
|  | Sept. 18 - Evaluation Research, Educational Materials |  |  |
|  | Sept. 19 - Admin/Plant flyer |  |  |
|  | Sept. 23 - Phase 1 Vendor Meeting, Install Planting |  |  |
|  | Sept. 24 - Admin/Plant flyer, reimbursable expenses form, invoice, DEP letter |  |  |
|  | Sept. 24 - Phase 2 Planning |  |  |
|  | Sept. 25 - Phase 1 |  |  |
|  | Sept. 27 - Phase 1 install and Phase 2 planning |  |  |
|  | Sept. 28 - Phase 1 wintering over strategy. Phase 2 planning |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 1/8/2013 |  (1,329.75) |
|  | Oct. 7 Phase 1 Install |  |  |
|  | Oct. 7 Phase 2 Planning |  |  |
|  | Oct. 16 Admin/Plant Flyer |  |  |
|  | Oct. 17 Phase 2 Planning |  |  |
|  | Oct. 21 Phase 1 Outreach |  |  |
|  | Oct. 22 Phase 1 Final Spec w/Contractor |  |  |
|  | Oct. 23 Admin Invoicing |  |  |
|  | Oct. 25 Phase 1 Fabrication |  |  |
|  | Oct. 30 Site visits |  |  |
|  | Oct. 31 Phase 1 visit to vendor |  |  |
|  | Oct. 31 Admin invoicing |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 1/8/2013 |  (555.75) |
|  | Nov. 5 Email with DEP |  |  |
|  | Nov. 11 Pick up frames from Vendor |  |  |
|  | Nov. 12 Email with DEP/DEC |  |  |
|  | Nov. 21 Deliver Basins |  |  |
|  | Nov. 26 Admin Invoicing |  |  |
|  | Nov. 29 Phone conversation with SD |  |  |
| Hammersmith LLC | 9/13/2013 |  (3,075.00) |
|  | Oct. 7 - 5 galvanized sediment basins (wetland frames) [33% of final cost] |  |  |
| Hammersmith LLC | 11/9/2013 |  (6,150.00) |
|  | Nov. 7 - 5 galvanized sediment basins (wetland frames) [balance] |  |  |
| LaGuardia  |  | 11/8/2013 |  (4,035.00) |
|  | Nov. 8 - 3 hours of release time for Sarah Durand $1345 x 3 hours |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 2/19/2014 |  (687.00) |
|  | Dec. 13- Phase I Install/Inspection |  |  |
| NYC Parks and Recreation | 11/26/2013 |  (239.65) |
|  | July 30 - Misc. wetland plants for installation in wetland frames |  |  |
| BC Carter Craft | 12/3/2013 |  (170.00) |
|  | Oct. 26 -Workboat delivery: wood, sand, plants, hardware for Phase 1 install |  |  |
| BC Carter Craft | 12/17/2013 |  (255.00) |
|  | Dec. 2 - Workboat delivery Frames |  |  |
| ONY Carter Craft | 3/18/2014 |  (506.25) |
|  | Feb. 28 - Phase 2 Planning |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Previous Balance |  |  7,399,875.15  |
|  | New Expenses |  |  (25,647.05) |
|  | Remaining Balance |  |  **7,374,228.10**  |