

12/7/21

Re: Council Oversight Hearing: Access to Recreational Programs
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 1 PM,

We learned of this hearing on short notice from a community member, so this is rushed.

The boiler in the Red Hook Rec Center must be repaired. The Rec Center is a vital resource in an underserved community in general, and even more so since many of Red Hook's outdoor spaces have become unusable with lead remediation in Parks ballfields and all of NYCHA's outdoor space torn up for a post-Sandy resiliency project.

Further, the idea that it was damaged by hurricane Ida is surprising; why was this not made flood-proof after Sandy.

Lastly, the sidewalk toilet to serve Valentino Park should FINALLY be installed. THIS WAS APPROVED IN 2018!

See our blogpost <https://portsidennyork.org/portsidetanke/2014/9/25/red-hooks-valentino-park-community-meeting-about-the-comfort-station-matter>

Use of tiny, beloved Valentino Park has soared in the pandemic.

The last reason for the delay was about an issue matching the original fence, and inexcusable reason. Copying from our blogpost:

From: Frumin, Rachel [<mailto:rfrumin@dot.nyc.gov>]

Sent: Monday, July 01, 2019 11:31 AM

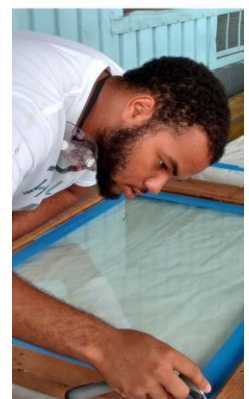
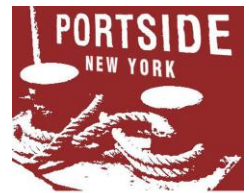
To: Budelman, Brandon; Carolina Salguero

Cc: Branch, Leroy; Widdison, Renae; Craven, Michelle

Subject: RE: PortSide NewYork request to put info on Valentino Park Street toilet

Hi all,

PortSide NewYork, aboard the tanker MARY A. WHALEN
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www.portsidennyork.org. www.redhookwaterstories.org



The approved project is delayed due to DEP issues that requested an agreement letter between DOT and Parks on the site plan. That is in process. Also, the existing fence is not a standard one that we can easily procure. Instead, the fence is custom that was commissioned by EDC. To move the fence to accommodate an APT require reconfiguration of the fence work to maintain the flow of the curvy lines in the middle as well as to find a fabricator to build and install the fence. I'm working on this and it is taking some time.

Rachel

Rachel Frumin
Director of Concessions and Franchises
NYC Department of Transportation
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We followed up and said that we could introduce them to lots of local metal fabricators who could replicate the fence, or make new. Resounding silence since. We are sure users of the park care more about getting a toilet than having the fence section match - though surely the amazing artisans of Red Hook could match the original fence.

Red Hook deserves a boiler in the Rec Center and a toilet in Valentino Park!

Sincerely,

Carolina Salguero
Executive Director
PortSide NewYork

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