

5689--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

June 5, 2013

Introduced by Sen. SQUADRON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cities -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing and empowering a neighborhood parks alliance within the New York city department of parks and recreation

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Section 1. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended  
2 by adding a new section 18-142 to read as follows:  
3 S 18-142 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ALLIANCE. 1. ESTABLISHMENT. THERE IS HERE-  
4 BY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ALLIANCE TO  
5 EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
6 2. BOARD. (A) THE ALLIANCE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY A BOARD WHICH SHALL BE  
7 COMPOSED OF EIGHT MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:  
8 (1) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY EACH BOROUGH PRESIDENT OF THE  
9 CITY OF NEW YORK;  
10 (2) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW  
11 YORK;  
12 (3) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
13 OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK;  
14 (4) ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE OF THE CITY  
15 OF NEW YORK.  
16 (B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS, EACH APPOINTING  
17 AUTHORITY SHALL ENDEAVOR TO HAVE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD REFLECT THE  
18 RACIAL, ETHNIC, GENDER, LANGUAGE AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF  
19 NEW YORK.  
20 (C) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE ACTIVE  
21 MEMBERS OF PARK ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS OR THOSE THAT HAVE EXPERIENCE  
22 WORKING ON URBAN OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (D) ANY VACANCY ON THE BOARD SHALL BE FILLED BY THE RESPECTIVE  
2 APPOINTING AUTHORITY IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT WAS  
3 MADE.

4 (E) THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TERMS OF FOUR  
5 YEARS.

6 (F) THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR  
7 SERVICES.

8 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. THE BOARD:

9 (A) SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO SHALL ACT IN ACCORDANCE  
10 WITH THE POLICIES OF THE BOARD;

11 (B) IS AUTHORIZED, WITHIN APPROPRIATIONS AVAILABLE THEREFOR, TO  
12 APPOINT SUCH EMPLOYEES AS ARE NECESSARY TO EXERCISE ITS POWERS AND  
13 FULFILL ITS DUTIES;

14 (C) SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ADOPT, AMEND AND RESCIND RULES AND REGU-  
15 LATIONS TO GOVERN PROCEDURES OF THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
16 SECTION;

17 (D) SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND IN A  
18 BANK OR OTHER FEDERALLY INSURED DEPOSITORY LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE;

19 (E) SHALL ESTABLISH A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY CHARGED AND AUTHORIZED TO  
20 MANAGE, ALLOCATE AND DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS PROVIDED BY CONTRIBUTING  
21 CONSERVANCY FUNDS TO RECIPIENT PARKS;

22 (F) SHALL DETERMINE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY OF PARKS TO RECEIVE  
23 MONIES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND; AND

24 (G) SHALL PUBLICIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
25 PARK FUND TO QUALIFYING RECIPIENT PARKS.

26 4. CONTRIBUTING CONSERVANCIES. CONTRIBUTING CONSERVANCIES:

27 (A) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE CONTRIBUTING CONSERVANCIES SHALL SHARE  
28 PARK MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES WITH RECIPIENT PARKS.

29 (B) SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE NO LESS THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF  
30 THEIR OPERATING BUDGETS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND ON AN ANNUAL  
31 BASIS.

32 (C) SHALL ATTEND AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS  
33 ALLIANCE BOARD AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM RECIPIENT PARKS.

34 5. THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND. (A) THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND SHALL  
35 CONSIST OF ALL REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE ALLIANCE FROM CONTRIBUTING  
36 CONSERVANCIES AND ALL OTHER MONEYS APPROPRIATED, CREDITED, OR TRANS-  
37 FERRED THERETO FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE PURSUANT TO LAW. NOTHING CONTAINED  
38 IN THIS SECTION SHALL PREVENT THE ALLIANCE FROM RECEIVING GRANTS, GIFTS  
39 OR BEQUESTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE FUND AS DEFINED IN THIS SUBDIVISION  
40 AND DEPOSITING THEM INTO THE FUND ACCORDING TO LAW.

41 (B) NO MONIES FROM THE FUND OR THE ALLIANCE SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO  
42 THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND OR SHALL BE USED FOR ANY  
43 PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

44 (C) MONIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FUND SHALL BE USED FOR THE SOLE  
45 PURPOSES OF FUNDING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ALLIANCE  
46 AND MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OF RECIPIENT PARKS.

47 (D) MONIES FROM THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE BOARD TO RECIPI-  
48 ENT PARKS BASED ON CRITERIA TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

49 6. DEFINITIONS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS  
50 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

51 (A) "CONTRIBUTING CONSERVANCY" SHALL MEAN ANY NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY  
52 WITH AN OPERATING BUDGET OF NO LESS THAN FIVE MILLION DOLLARS THAT OPER-  
53 ATES ANY PARK OR PORTION OF ANY PARK UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
54 COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, PURSUANT  
55 TO A WRITTEN CONSERVANCY ARRANGEMENT AND PROVIDED THAT "CONSERVANCY"  
56 SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITY THAT OPERATES IN THREE OR

1 MORE BOROUGHES, THAT ENTERS INTO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEIGHBOR-  
2 HOOD PARKS ALLIANCE THAT COMMITS NO LESS THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF ITS  
3 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS  
4 ALLIANCE.

5 (B) "CONSERVANCY ARRANGEMENT" SHALL MEAN ANY LICENSE OR OTHER WRITTEN  
6 AUTHORIZATION ALLOWING A CONSERVANCY TO OPERATE ANY PARK OR PORTION OF  
7 ANY PARK UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECRE-  
8 ATION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

9 (C) "OPERATES" SHALL MEAN THE ABILITY TO HIRE A MAJORITY OF FULL TIME  
10 STAFF FOR SUCH PARK.

11 (D) "RECIPIENT PARKS" SHALL MEAN ALL PARKS THAT HAVE A BUDGET PROVIDED  
12 SOLELY BY THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND HAVE HAD A RANKING OF UNACCEPTABLE  
13 FROM THE DEPARTMENT IN THE PRECEDING TWO YEARS AND FOR WHICH THE LOCAL  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER AND THE DEPARTMENT HAVE SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
15 STANDING TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FROM THE MUNICIPALITY AT THE AMOUNT BUDGET-  
16 ED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.

17 (E) "NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FUND" SHALL MEAN THE FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE  
18 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ALLIANCE WITH REVENUE GENERATED FROM CONTRIBUTING  
19 CONSERVANCIES.

20 S 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
21 have become a law.