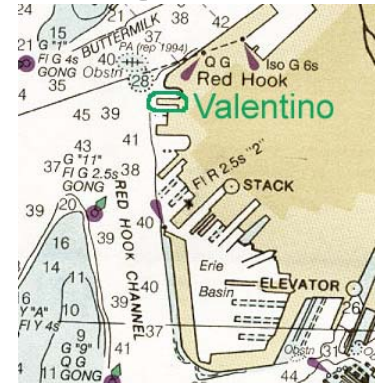


Information Meeting

Community Board 6 Parks Committee
Wednesday, May 16th 6:30 pm
Red Hook Rec Center
155 Bay Street at Henry Street

Community Sailing Program

PortSide New York hopes to offer community sailing in Red Hook's Valentino Park. That's a mix of free and low-cost sailing programs, inspired by the Boston non-profit Community Boating, Inc. (www.community-boating.org), the oldest and largest public sailing program in the US. In this model, adults pay low fees for lessons, and we offer charter sails; all of which, coupled with fund raising, supports free sailing for area youth. Last fall, a generous supporter donated a 24 foot Morgan sailboat to PortSide, so we're on our way. PortSide needs your help to ensure that the Community Sailing Program fits our neighborhood and our waters.



Please join us in a discussion of this proposal on May 16th. Details at top of page.

After hearing from you, we will ask Parks Department permission for a mooring (a sort of permanent anchor) in Valentino Park. Ultimately, given the size of Valentino Park's water space, we envision 3-5 moorings.

Long Range Benefits for Youth:

Learning to sail is fun, but we think it offers more than that. Youth sailing generates self-assurance, teamwork, and helps youngsters learn safety skills and confidence around the water... which for some will evolve into productive maritime careers. PortSide envisions the Community Sailing Program as an important first phase in our proposed marine career center. Right now, New York harbor workboats desperately need employees, but the companies require entry-level crew with on-the-water experience. PortSide, and the Tug Pegasus, are partnering to create other training programs to give local youth that experience.



Our motto "start 'em young!"

9 year old Samuel, father at his side, steers a whale watch boat in Dominican Republic

Other PortSide Boating News:

Last fall, Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel said PortSide, The Red Hook Boaters, and Urban Divers, the three groups with boat programs in Valentino Park, could have a boat storage unit in the park. Space-planning is underway.

Sat. Sept 8, join us at our 2nd Annual **Kayak Valet** event in Valentino Park.

40° 41' 15"N 74° 00 19" W
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