

James G. Clynes
Chairman

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue
Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee meeting
Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd St. Living Room
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 6:30 PM

CB8M Members present: Michele Birnbaum, Jim Clynes, Scott Falk, Sophia James, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

Excused Parks Committee members: Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Peggy Price

- 1. East 81st St. Bridge: Planning for an upcoming meeting with Parks Dept. officials about materials to be used on the new E. 81st St. bridge to the Esplanade--a joint issue with the Transportation Committee.**
At the December Transportation committee meeting, the community expressed concerns about the materials used to construct the E. 81 St pedestrian bridge to the East River Esplanade. Since these are the only materials DOT will maintain, it was suggested that the Parks Committee discuss the possibility of the Parks Dept. taking over the responsibility for maintaining the bridge and for constructing it of transparent materials more acceptable to the community. At the Parks Committee meeting, Alex Eng, the Parks Dept.'s Project Manager for the East River Esplanade, said he understood the community's concerns. He assured attendees that the Parks Dept. is committed to beautifying the Esplanade, and it will work with Cong. Maloney's office to arrange a meeting with various City agencies about the bridge situation.
- 2. East River Esplanade: Update by the Esplanade's project manager on the Parks Dept.'s progress and introduction of the City's new landscape architect for the Esplanade.**
The Parks Dept. has assigned Ricardo Hinkel, a senior landscape architect, to oversee design improvements to the Esplanade once repairs are completed. According to Parks Dept. officials, Mr. Hinkel has extensive experience with waterfront plantings, including those along the Harlem River Esplanade. He will be aiming to create a consistent look for the Esplanade and will select drought-resistant plantings. However, there is still no funding for irrigation. The committee urged Mr. Hinkel to address the Con Edison portion of the Esplanade, where repair work remains unfinished.
- 3. 1190 Second Ave.: Discussion of how to proceed with the Community Board's desire to convert 1190 Second Ave. at 63rd St.--which is now a construction area for the East Side Access transportation project (ESA) -- to a park once the ESA is completed.** This is a follow-up on the resolution the Community Board passed at its December full board meeting.
In December CB8M passed a resolution proposing that the MTA's lot at 1190 Second Avenue be eventually converted to parkland. Several local elected officials have voiced their support for the plan. As the next step, the committee has asked CB8M's chair to write to Borough President Gale Brewer requesting a meeting on the issue. The committee will also reach out for support from local community groups and civic organizations, such as CIVITAS and New Yorkers for Parks.

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee