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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**

**PARKS COMMITTEE**

**Brick Presbyterian Church**  
**62 East 92<sup>nd</sup> Street (Park-Madison)**  
**Living Room**  
**Thursday, September 4, 2014**  
**6:30PM**

**CB8M Members present:** Elizabeth Ashby, Lowell Barton, Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo

**Excused:** Susan Evans, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Judy Schneider, Barry Schneider

**1.Reconstruction of Five Boat Landings along the Lake in Central Park**—*a joint issue with the Landmarks Committee.*

The Central Park Conservancy plans to reconstruct five boat landings along the shoreline of the lake in Central Park. These landings, built in the 1860s and renovated by the Friends of Central Park in the 1970s, were originally used as drop-off/pick-up points as visitors were ferried by boat along the lake. The landings are now in disrepair, and over the years, have lost much of their original design features.

The CPC's project aims to construct more faithful recreations of the original boat landings on the existing sites. Construction, which will begin in November and be completed in the spring, will cost \$500,000.

The landings proposed for reconstruction include:

Wagner Cove Landing, overlooking the cove on the west side of Cherry Hill, and Bank Rock Landing, near Oak Bridge, which are rustic in style;  
Western Shore Landing, close to Strawberry field, Hershhead Landing on the west shore, and Bow Bridge Land, near Oak Bridge, which are all Victorian in style.

Bow Bridge and Wagner Cove were vandalized a few weeks ago. The damage to Wagner Cove was so severe that the landing had to be dismantled.

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS** the Central Park Conservancy proposes to provide a much needed renovation of the boat landings along the lake in Central Park, which would restore their original architectural features; and

**WHEREAS** the landings enhance the visitor's experience by providing access to the waterfront; and

**WHEREAS** the construction will take place during the winter months when the lake is less visited; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** CB8M approves of the Central Park Conservancy's proposal to rebuild five boat landings on the lake in Central Park.

### **VOTE: 8-0-0**

In favor: Elizabeth Ashby, Lowell Barton, Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo.

### **2. Construction of an ADA-Compliant Ramp at the East 64<sup>th</sup> St. Entrance To Central Park—a joint issue with the Landmarks Committee.**

The Central Park Conservancy is proposing to create a ramp at Central Park's heavily used entrance at East 64<sup>th</sup> St. at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.—which is also the main entrance to the Parks Dept.'s citywide headquarters, known as the Arsenal.

Currently, people in wheelchairs, and those with strollers, cannot navigate the stairway entrance to the park at E. 64<sup>th</sup> St. To correct this problem, the Conservancy is proposing to create an ADA-compliant entrance ramp. This gradually descending, almost u-shaped, structure would run about 85 feet south along the inside of the perimeter wall, after which it would move 40 feet down the slope and then stretch 85 feet north to the bottom of the steps. To create outside access to this ramp, the Conservancy would make an opening in the park's perimeter wall about 10 feet to the south of the 64<sup>th</sup> St. entrance.

New plantings will help camouflage the ramp, visually blending the area into the overall landscaping. The project will also include reconstruction of the existing steps into the park and improvements to the park's perimeter, from East 60<sup>th</sup> St. to East 65<sup>th</sup> St. In the latter case, work will include replacement of hexagonal asphalt block pavers, resetting the granite block in tree beds and reconstruction of existing curbs and pedestrian ramps. If approved, the \$3 million project would begin by late winter and be completed in about six to eight months.

CB8M attendees asked the Conservancy to create prominent signage designating the ramp as an entrance for the handicapped and prohibiting bike riding on it.

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS** Central Park's heavily used entrance at East 64<sup>th</sup> St and Fifth Ave. currently is inaccessible by wheel chair, making it non-compliant with ADA regulations; and

**WHEREAS** the Central Park Conservancy proposes to create a three-legged, u-shaped ramp at this location, which would make this entrance usable to people in wheelchairs and to families with strollers; and

**WHEREAS** the project will include horticultural enhancements at the site as well as improvements to the pavement and steps in that area, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan, approves of the Central Park Conservancy's plan to create an ADA-compliant ramp at Central Park's entrance at East 64<sup>th</sup> St. and Fifth Ave.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan, urges the Central Park Conservancy to create prominent signage designating the new ramp as an entrance for the handicapped and prohibiting bike riding on it.

### **VOTE: 8-0-0**

In favor: Elizabeth Ashby, Lowell Barton, Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo.

### **3. Extension of Public Access to Poses Park at Hunter College**

Hunter College's Patrick McKenna reported that Poses Park, at E. 68<sup>th</sup> St. near Lexington Ave., would remain open to the public on weekends this year until November 2nd. Previously, its closing to the public had been planned for Columbus Day weekend.

As of now, Hunter College plans to reopen Poses Park to the public next Memorial Day weekend. However, it could reopen sooner if the weather is good, Mr. McKenna said.

CB8M members pointed out that many people still don't know about public usage of Poses Park on weekends. Thus, meeting attendees asked that Hunter College provide more publicity about it.

### **4. Status of Renovations Along the East River Esplanade.**

**East River Esplanade Project Manager:** The Parks Dept. has selected a project manager to oversee renovations of the East River Esplanade. The committee has asked this appointee to attend the committee's next meeting, and to appear at any Parks Committee meetings concerning work on the Esplanade.

**Con Edison site:** Mark Vaccaro, of the Parks Dept., stated that Con Ed has completed its required work at the Con Ed site on the Esplanade, and that site will soon be transferred back to the City. From here, the Parks Dept. will determine how work at the site will be completed. The committee expressed great frustration over the poor quality of Con Ed's work on the Esplanade, and urged that the existing Con Ed building on the site be removed.

**Esplanade Repairs:** Although the City is continuing to make sink hole repairs along the Esplanade, work on the underlining problems has not yet begun. Thus far, the City has allocated \$35 million of the needed \$115 million over 10 years, to make critical repairs to the crumbling Esplanade.

**E. 81 Street Pedestrian Bridge:** A contract has been awarded for the construction of the pedestrian bridge at E 81 Street, which provides access to the Esplanade. The Transportation Committee, jointly with the Parks Committee, hopes to present the design to the public.

## **Old Business**

### **Dangerous Bike Riding in Central Park and Elsewhere**

Citing a recent incident of a cyclist killing a pedestrian in Central Park, a CB8M member emphasized the need for better enforcement of biking rules in the park. Meeting attendees pointed to various dangerous conditions being created by bikers, including running through red lights, both inside and outside Central Park.

Attendees agreed that CB8's Parks and Transportation committees should jointly take up the issue of better enforcement of biking rules. It was proposed that these two CB8 committees, or CB8's chair, should write a letter to the NYC police commissioner urging better enforcement of the City's biking laws.

**Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder  
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee**