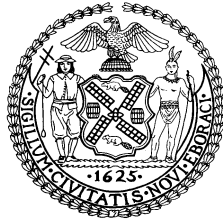


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee

Lenox Hill Hospital, 130 East 77 Street-Michael Bruno Room
February 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes

Community Board Members (Present): Alexandra Harrington, Craig Lader, Rita Poppa, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, M. Barry Schneider

Community Board Public Members (Present): Judy Schneider, Irma Torres

Community Board Members (Excused): Sofia James, Greg Kirschenbaum, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Peggy Price

- 1. Next Month's Parks and Waterfront Committee Meeting will change to the 2nd Thursday of March, which is March 14th.**
- 2. Presentation on Art Work for Greenway Project by EDC and Parks—Joint item with 197-A Committee**
EDC presenters: Morgan Jones, Amy Seek, Kathryn Przybylski. Parks Dept. representatives present: Michael Bradley, Wes Hamilton, Ashley Kuenneke.
 - Morgan Jones restated some of the facts about the Greenway project that runs from 53rd to 61st Street. There will be security cameras; call boxes; ambulance access; water through hose bibs and run off from the bike path down into the planted areas. He then introduced Amy Seek who was presenting the art piece on behalf of the artist Stacy Levy, who was unable to attend due to illness. Amy reviewed the Greenway which is located in the East River—the elevated bike path, the lower pedestrian path with the 3 nodes for activity. The artist was very concerned with feet and where we walk. Inspiration for her design was based on spoonfuls of brackish water from the East River, where there are myriad diatoms in many shapes, designs, and colors. She researched the diatoms of this waterway and translating their forms into art. Then designing a hex paver using the local diatoms as the pattern cast into the paver and set into the Greenway's floor. She was also inspired by the Gaudi Tiles in Barcelona, Spain. The pavers are a design with no color, ¼ inch relief and ADA compliant. Construction is expected to start the end of this year/beginning next. Everyone present applauded the wonderful presentation of the artist's inspired work.
 - EDC is ordering extra designed pavers for replacement that would be due to normal wear and tear on the walkways.
 - There were strong feelings that these pavers should be incorporated in the Esplanade throughout Community District 8 and that the Parks Department should investigate ordering more to accomplish this task. Parks stated this was something that would have to be worked out with the artist, as well as with the Parks Department—but they would look into it.

The following **RESOLUTIONS** were passed:

- A. WHEREAS** EDC presentation of the art work for the Greenway Project by Artist Stacy levy was wonderfully received,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 approves this presentation and urges EDC to move forward on this project.

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Yes: Harrington, Lader, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider, Shimamura,)

Approved Public Members: 2-0-0 (Yes: J. Schneider, Torres)

- B. WHEREAS** EDC is planning to use these pavers throughout the Greenway Project,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 strongly requests some of these pavers be used in “The Landing Node” at the 61st street end.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 requests the Parks Department work these pavers into the design further along the Esplanade in Community District 8.

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Yes: Harrington, Lader, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider, Shimamura,)

Approved Public Members: 2-0-0 (Yes: J. Schneider, Torres)

3. Presentation by the Parks Department of Temporary Art Work on the Park Avenue Malls by Joseph La Piana

Presenter: Elizabeth Masella of the Public Art Division of the Parks Department

- The temporary sculptures will be located at 60th, 67th and 70th Streets on the Park Avenue Malls
- A recurrent theme in Joseph La Piana’s work, tension pushes the capabilities of static material by testing its infinite tensile strength and expandability and explores parallels with human emotional and psychological boundaries. These dynamic living sculptures create a relationship between the surrounding environments and form an energetic field with their cohabitants. These echo the energy of life in the city, mimicking a virtual blueprint of peoples’ paths throughout the day.
- These are *Tension* sculptures and would be constructed of a liquid mold rubber (polyurethane & silicon) and rebar. The molded material would also safeguard any concerns with regards to public interference and durability. The sculpture rendered proposals can be viewed from both sides of traffic.
- The artists are referred to the Parks Department by the Fund for the Park Avenue.

The following **RESOLUTION** was passed:

WHEREAS the public art displays along Park Avenue continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS the upcoming exhibit will be suspended above the floral plantings along Park Avenue, allowing for both plants and art to coexist in the same space;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 approves the proposed temporary art installation on the Park Avenue Malls by Joseph La Piana.

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Yes: Harrington, Lader, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider, Shimamura,)

Public Members: 1-1-0 (Yes: Torres No: J. Schneider)

4. Report by Wes Hamilton, Parks Manager for Community District 8

- The Recreational centers will be opened at No Charge for this week. Wes encouraged everyone to give them a try.
- Some of the places recommended are: Recreational Center 54 at 348 E. 54 St.; Asser Levy at 23rd Street and the FDR; Thomas Jefferson Center at 1st Avenue and 112th Street.

5. M. Barry Schneider gave an update Parks in the CD8

- Esplanade between 88/90 Streets: We have asked Parks to come to the committee meeting in March.
- 24 Sycamores Park: They are looking at awarding contract, will know more next month.
- Tramway Park: RIOC conducted a geotechnical exploration on site and are currently adjusting the foundation drawings accordingly. RIOC received their second update of those drawings this morning (Thursday). The next steps will be to file with MTA and DOB.
- John Jay Park-SE Corner: Now going to the Public Design Commission.
- St. Catherine's Park: They have an appointment with the Building Department February 22 to see what is needed to complete filing of Park House.
- Carl Schurz Playground: Bids are in and within budget. They are being reviewed.
- DeKovats Playground: This was heard at the Joint Transportation/Parks Committee meeting this week. Part of the playground is going to be used for the new 92nd Street ramp for the Marine Transfer Station. At this point, we know that several trees will be lost and that the sand box area for the younger children will be removed. Parks Department expects that the current NYC budget will have \$3.2 million to redo the entire DeKovats Playground area, hopefully in conjunction with the end of the 92nd Street Ramp project. The committee will request a complete presentation of the DeKovats Playground renovation from Parks/EDC as the MTS Ramp project moves forward.

6. New/Old Business

- Joan Bogaty spoke about Ruppert Park and the current rules that do not allow dogs, as the entire park is classified as a playground. She has a petition which she presented to the committee with 380 signatures to date. She made the following points:
 - A. There should be a dog run at the NE Corner 91st and 2nd Avenue. It would be near the 91st Street entrance. The group using it would police the other users to make sure they obey the rules. This would not only help the dog owners it would be of value to the non-dog owners.
 - B. Dog owners should be allowed to use the "Park" on leash, but not at the playground area.
 - C. They will be writing letters and petitions to the Commissioners.
- A disabled Armed Services veteran who was in attendance with his service dog said he could not walk more than 3 blocks from where he lived, and Carl Schurz was just too far.
- There were many other speakers on this issue, as well as people who said they moved to their current address because of the park and that they already had dogs when they moved.
- Wes Hamilton, Parks Department, stated there were a lot of problems with the park having to do with safety due to utilities, sprinklers, erosion and the ground slope. The fenced-in areas were never considered for people or dogs. A goal is to improve the park horticulturally. The area was initially designed by HPD and was then taken over by Parks and is not the type of layout parks would normally design.
- The Co-Chairs said that the entire park needs to be redesigned and this would be discussed with the Parks Department on how to proceed in this direction. Members of the public were advised to follow the CB8 Agenda, as there will be on-going discussion on this subject in coming months. They also advised people to start a formal "Friends of" group, which would be helpful in moving this project forward.

Tricia Shimamura and M. Barry Schneider, Co-Chairs