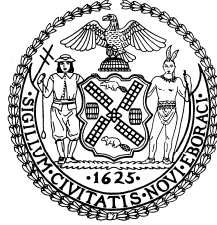


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee Meeting
Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd St., Living Room
January 23, 2014, 6:30 PM

CB8M members in attendance: Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder.
Excused: Susan Evans, Sophia James, Judy and Barry Schneider, Helene Simon

1. Status of CB8M's Open Space Initiative

As a follow-up to its fall survey on open space sites, the Parks Committee discussed specific locales with representatives of five local elected officials: City Council Members Garodnick and Kallos, State Sen. Krueger, and State Assembly Members Kellner and Quart.

The three specific sites being considered include:

- An MTA-owned lot at the corner of Second Ave. and East 63rd St., which is now part of the East Side Access project's construction area;
- A vacant lot on Second Ave. between E. 62nd St. and E. 63rd St.;
- Hunter College's gated Poser Park, on E. 68th St. between Third and Lexington avenues.

The Committee has learned that construction is about to occur at a previously identified fourth site—a vacant lot at 321 E. 61st St.—making it unavailable for parkland.

The Committee has spoken to an official in the MTA's real estate department about eventually converting the MTA's lot at Second Ave. and E. 63rd St. to a park once construction of the East Side Access is completed. Although that official was enthusiastic about the plan, he said it was now too early to make commitments about the future of that site. However, at the January Parks Committee meeting, attendees agreed that CB8M should send the MTA a letter, co-signed by elected officials, formalizing the desire for the lot at Second Ave. and E. 63rd St. eventually to become parkland.

In addition, some elected officials' reps. said they would confer with Hunter College's officials about the possibility of allowing at least some public use of the now gated and locked Poser Park on E. 68th St. Some of the reps. also plan to explore possible public use of the empty lot on Second Ave. between E. 62nd and E. 63rd streets.

In the coming month, the Parks Committee will obtain an update on these projects from elected officials' reps.

2. Plans for Renovation of the East River Esplanade in CB8M

Last fall, CB8M passed a resolution calling for the City to fund the necessary \$115 million--\$11.5 million annually--for basic repairs of the East River Esplanade. Since this money has not yet been included in the City's budget, the Parks Committee has decided to postpone plans for a second forum on the Esplanade while it pushes to secure City funding for the Esplanade.

The Committee launched this campaign at its January meeting. The Committee asked reps. of elected officials in attendance—City Council Members Garodnick and Kallos, State Sen. Krueger, and State Assembly Members Kellner and Quart—for assistance in obtaining the needed funds for the Esplanade. Their response was positive, and some of the elected officials' reps. asked for more copies of CB8M's resolutions concerning the Esplanade.

Meanwhile, the Committee has asked a representative of Congress Member Carolyn Maloney to reconvene the East River Esplanade Task Force. The response has been very favorable, and it's expected that this Task Force, likely to be co-chaired by Rep. Maloney and Council Member Kallos, will be restarted sometime early this year.

3. Cleanliness Concerns at John Jay Park

The Parks Committee discussed persistent complains about litter and other cleanliness problems at John Jay Park.

Meeting attendees identified several ways to help alleviate the cleanliness concerns. These steps include: Reconferring with the Police Dept.'s Conditions (quality of life) Staff, who will be asked to review conditions at John Jay Park as often as possible; reaching out to the Dept. of Homeless Services; posting more signs—which might be available from the Partnership for Parks-- reminding park users to dispose of their trash; and obtaining more trash cans. In addition, some elected officials' reps. said they would contact the Parks Dept. about cleanliness problems at John Jay Park.

Parks Dept. officials were invited to this meeting but were unable to attend. The Parks Committee will be following up the Parks Dept. about cleanliness at John Jay Park.

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder, Parks Committee Co-Chairs