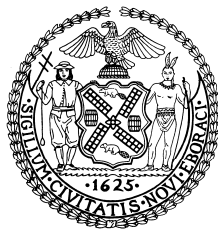


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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**

Parks Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 7, 2013, 6:30 pm  
New York Blood Center  
310 East 67<sup>th</sup> St., Conference Room 1

CB8M Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Ashby, Molly Blayney, Susan Evans, Ed Hartzog, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo.  
Excused: Scott Falk, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Helene Simon

**1. Request to Extend Hours that Dogs Can Be Off-Leash in Central Park**—joint issue with the Landmarks Committee.

Elizabeth Ashby presented a list of issues from dog owners who bring their pets to Central Park. Issues she cited: Insufficient time, now ranging from 9PM to 9AM, for dogs to be allowed off-leash; the reduction or elimination of some areas of the park to dogs to protect the park's landscape; and, the lack of dog runs in Central Park. As a result, dogs are concentrated in a smaller area. In addition, Park Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers have recently been ticketing dog owners for minor infractions.

Members of the public urged the Conservancy to extend off-leash walking by three hours, from 7PM to 10AM, limited to the areas in the park that are lightly used.

Central Parks Conservancy's Caroline Greenleaf and Neil Carvanese defended the current off-leash hours. They explained that, despite a 2006 lawsuit against the Parks Department that threatened the ability of dog owners to walk their pets off-leash, the Conservancy has fought to allow some off-leash hours for dogs in the park. But they noted that Central Park is a landscaped, managed space enjoyed by millions of visitors each year. Extending off-leash hours for dogs will radically and negatively impact the park's landscape, they said. They added that the Conservancy must heed the interests of all park users—and not just dog owners. Moreover, they stressed that the Parks Dept., not the Conservancy, sets the rules on off-leash dogs, they said.

The dog owners said they are eager to meet with the Conservancy to pursue these issues. They expressed willingness to self-police to make certain all dog owners observe the rules. Therefore, the Parks committee of CB8M unanimously passed the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the limited 9 PM to 9 AM hours that dogs may be off-leash in Central Park poses a hardship for many dog owners who cannot use the park during those hours; and

**WHEREAS** areas available to off-leash dogs in Central Park have become more restricted over the last few years; and

**WHEREAS** Central Park is lacking in dog run facilities; and

**WHEREAS** there are areas of the park that are lightly visited and are lacking in the kind of sensitive plantings that could be harmed by dogs; and

**WHEREAS** many dog owners recently have received fines for minor infractions while their dogs were off leash; and

**WHEREAS** the dog owner community has expressed a desire to work with the Central Park Conservancy to resolve issues over off-leash rules for dogs in Central Park; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan, requests that the Central Park Conservancy extend by three hours, from 7PM to 10 AM, the time that dogs may be off-leash in areas of Central Park that are not heavily trafficked, to expand the tight off-leash schedule dog owners currently face; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Community Board 8M requests that the Central Park Conservancy review unfair ticketing practices now being imposed on dog owners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan, urges the Central Park Conservancy to meet with dog owners to discuss and resolve issues to make the Park more accommodating to this constituency.

VOTE: 9-0-0

In favor: Elizabeth Ashby, Molly Blayney, Susan Evans, Ed Hartzog, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo

## **2. Discussion of Plans for the Parks Committee's April 25 Forum on the Need for Open Space on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.**

As discussed, the Committee heard that final plans are now in the works for this major event to be held April 25, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, starting at 6:30 pm. The Committee hopes all members of CB8M will attend the forum.

At the event, Nick Viest will present opening remarks, followed by a presentation by Holly Leicht of the results of New Yorkers for Parks' study of open space on the Upper East Side. Other panelists will include: Fred Kent, founder of Project for Public Spaces; Dan Barasch and James Ramsey, creators of the proposed Lowline park on Manhattan's Lower East Side; and Council Member Dan Garodnick.

A Q&A session will follow the panelists' presentations. Prior to the start of the forum, the audience will receive index cards and pencils for writing down their questions for panelists. Parks Committee members will collect the cards during the forum and present them to the forum's moderators, who will then direct the questions to members of the panel during the Q&A period. The Committee is now in the throes of publicizing the forum. The Committee has been asking the Community Board, local organizations and forum panelists to help spread the word about the event. The Committee would welcome any help with publicity that CB8M members can provide.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The City University of New York and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center are planning to erect very large buildings in a heavily residential area on the east end of a block bounded by York Avenue, the FDR Drive and East 73 and 74<sup>th</sup> Streets. Given the heavily overbuilt conditions in that area, CB8M's CUNY-MSK Task Force has asked CUNY-MSK to provide public open space at, or adjacent to, this project. This request follows CB8M's 2012 resolution—originating in the Parks Committee—that urges new building projects on the Upper East Side to include public open space as part of their project's design.

At the March Parks Committee meeting, CB8 members and members of the public unanimously expressed dismay over a new substitute plan by CUNY-MSK: Instead of providing public open space at the CUNY-MSK site, as CB8M has requested, project developers would give money to the development of Andrew Haswell Green park, which is a sizable distance from the CUNY-MSK project, and which would provide no benefit to residents living near the planned CUNY-MSK buildings.

Several meeting attendees questioned how this new proposal came up. Many aired deep concerns that it was being presented to the full CB8M board—at the March 13 Land Use meeting—before it had been voted on by the CUNY-MSK Task Force, jointly with the Parks Committee. Such a move would violate CB8M’s standard procedure of operating through committees, attendees agreed.

In addition, any such approval of a zoning text amendment, now being sought by CUNY-MSK to carry out its proposed donation to Andrew Haswell Green park, could create a dangerous precedent that could be used in future development projects.

CB8M members attending the meeting unanimously passed the following resolution. It aims to reaffirm CB8M’s position that building developers in the CB8M district should provide public open space as part of their project’s design, and this open space should be at, or adjacent to, the site of their planned project.

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the City University of New York and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center are planning to erect very large buildings in a heavily residential area on the east end of a block bounded by York Avenue, the FDR Drive and East 73 and 74<sup>th</sup> Streets: and

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8, Manhattan, through its CUNY-MSK Task Force, has repeatedly urged CUNY-MSK officials to provide ample public open space on or near this planned building project to accommodate the needs of the local community affected by CUNY-MSK’s large and intrusive project; and

**WHEREAS** instead of acceding to the Community Board’s request for public open space at or near the CUNY-MSK project, CUNY-MSK has inexplicably proposed a zoning text amendment that would allow it to donate money to the development of Andrew Haswell Green Park, which is a sizable distance from the planned CUNY-MSK project; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed donation, via the Parks Dept., to Andrew Haswell Green Park, violates the procedures of CB8M and sets a precarious precedent by circumventing the Community Board’s Parks Committee and its CUNY-MSK Task Force—two committees that should address these construction and parks issues before any action is taken on them by CB8M’s Land Use Committee; and

**WHEREAS** CB8M already has passed a resolution calling for new construction projects in its district to include public open space as part of the project’s design; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan reiterates its strong desire to have the CUNY-MSK project include public open space at or adjacent to its proposed construction project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan strongly objects to any such move to circumvent Community Board procedures by by-passing CB8M’s committee structure and compromising the Board’s requirement for open and fair proceedings.

VOTE: 9-0-0

In favor: Elizabeth Ashby, Molly Blayney, Susan Evans, Ed Hartzog, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater, Marco Tamayo.

**The Chairman ruled that Resolution is not in order as resolutions regarding this matter must first come through the CUNY MSK Task Force Committee.**

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