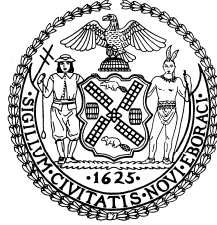


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee Meeting

Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd St., Youth Floor, NYC
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 6:30 PM

CB8M members in attendance: Elizabeth Ashby, Lowell Barton, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Lorraine Johnson, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, David Rosenstein, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

Excused: Scott Falk, Barry Schneider

1. Request to allow evening roller hockey at McDermott/Stanley Isaacs Park.

Brad Yale, a volunteer for the non-profit association, Manhattan Roller Hockey League, requested CB8M's support for evening adult roller hockey at the Paul McDermott rink (at E 96th Street and FDR Drive) in Stanley Isaacs Park. According to Mr. Yale, the Parks Dept. is seeking Community Board input on the plan before granting any permit to the hockey players.

Mr. Yale said that, if approved, the evening hockey games would involve about 20-to-24 people per session, and the season would last from about March 1 until Thanksgiving. The association would provide the lighting for the evening games.

Mr. Yale said that, thus far, the Manhattan Roller Hockey League has invested some \$100,000 to improve the rink. That investment has led to expanded community interest in roller hockey, and now some 300 roller hockey players use the McDermott rink. However, given the concern about late night play in a residential area, Mr. Yale agreed to CB8M's insistence that all roller hockey play end by 10 pm.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the Manhattan Roller Hockey League has provided roller hockey to 300 players at Paul McDermott rink in Stanley Isaacs Park; and

WHEREAS that roller hockey league now wishes to expand its use of the rink in Stanley Isaacs Park to include evening hours from March until late November; and

WHEREAS the association has agreed that all roller hockey play in Stanley Isaacs Park, which is located in a residential area, will end by 10 pm; and

WHEREAS the roller hockey league has promised to provide adequate lighting for evening hockey play; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M approves the request by the Manhattan Roller Hockey League for evening roller hockey play at Stanley Isaacs Park, provided that all night-time hockey play end by 10 pm.

VOTE: 10-0-0

Approved: Elizabeth Ashby, Lowell Barton, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Lorraine Johnson, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, David Rosenstein, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

2. Update on the status of the committee's Open Space initiative

The Parks Committee discussed the status of work on its three initial open space projects.

--*1190 Second Ave.*: an MTA-owned site, now being used as a construction area for the East Side Access project. Status: A letter signed by Nick Viest and the Parks Committee's co-chairs has been sent to the chairman of the MTA, apprising him of CB8M's interest in eventually converting that site to parkland once the East Side Access project is completed.

The MTA's response—received after the April Parks Committee meeting was held: In essence, MTA officials consider it premature to discuss the status of 1190 Second Ave., since the completion of the East Side Access project is still years away.

--*The empty lot on Second Ave. between 62nd and 63rd streets*: Despite repeated attempts, the committee so far has been unable to reach the principals of Moluka Enterprises, the owners of this vacant lot.

--*Hunter College's Poses Park*: Currently, this park, on East 68th St. is open only to the Hunter College community. The Parks Committee is seeking to make it accessible to the public, and Assembly Member Dan Quart and his staff have been pursuing that possibility in discussions with Hunter College officials.

At its April meeting, the Parks Committee received a status report on the Poses Park issue from Patrick McKenna, Hunter College's external affairs director. According to Mr. McKenna, Hunter College is "taking this request (concerning Poses Park) very seriously." And, Hunter's Pres. Jennifer Raab is "hopeful that a compromise" can be achieved to provide public access to this small park, he said. Although there had been some public access to the park in the past, he reported that Hunter had closed the park to the public after the 9/11. Between 2005 and 2009, access was again available from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. But subsequently, the park was again closed to the public. Today, it is available only to members of the Hunter College community who have a swipe card.

However, before Hunter can consider reopening Poses Park to the public, it needs to explore a number of, especially security-related, issues, Mr. McKenna said. Among these: since Poses Park is adjacent to a Hunter College building, officials would have to be sure that no unauthorized person could access the building via the park.

For their part, members of the public and CB8M members in attendance voiced a strong desire for public access to Poses Park. Meeting attendees pointed to the dearth of open space on the

Upper East Side, the ideal location of this park near bus stops and a subway entrance, and the lack of other parkland in the area.

Mr. McKenna said he would provide an update on the Poses Park project at the Parks Committee's May 1 meeting.

3. **Update on plans for the redesign of the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district.**

Con Edison project: The Parks Dept.'s Mark Vaccaro provided a status report on Con Edison's renovation work on a portion of the East River Esplanade. According to Mr. Vaccaro, Con Ed's Esplanade designs have been rejected because they excluded provisions for irrigation of the plantings. Subsequently, the design has been modified to exclude plantings, but the Public Design Commission is reviewing plans to see if planters can be added on the south end of Con Ed's project, near E.74 Street.

Rockefeller University project: Rockefeller University has hosted two charette sessions to discuss the redesign of the East River Esplanade in the Rockefeller U. area. Sessions highlighted the need for a design that ensures a free flow of foot and bike traffic along the narrow Esplanade while accommodating specific needs to make the Esplanade an attractive destination area. Open issues include the design of the pavers and the benches.

Lauren O'Toole, CIVITAS's executive director, reported that CIVITAS plans to work with consultants to gain a vision for the entire Esplanade's design.

New Business

1. A member of CB8M suggested an additional open space project: The portion of E. 91st St.-- between Second and Third avenues-- which is now closed to vehicular traffic. Although this area is now widely used for recreation, it is not mapped as parkland--meaning that at some point, the public could lose this amenity. The committee agreed it should address this issue at its June or July meeting.

2. A member of the public expressed concern about the maintenance and condition of plantings at Ruppert Park. The Parks Dept.'s Mark Vaccaro said that the Parks Dept. will be addressing these issues, but on a section-by-section basis.