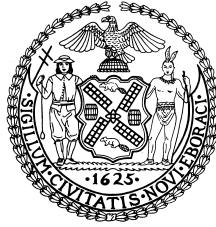


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Brick Presbyterian Church
62 East 92nd Street (Park-Madison)
Living Room
Thursday, April 7, 2016, 6:30 PM

CB8 Members in attendance: Susan Evans, Scott Falk, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider.

Public Members present: Judy Schneider and Trisha Shimamura

Excused: Daniel Dornbaum

1. Plans for the June 25 Community Gathering at the Queensboro Oval

As announced at the meeting, the committee will be sponsoring a community gathering at the Queensboro Oval on Saturday, June 25, from 11 am to 1 pm.

The event aims to draw wide support from the public at large and elected officials for CB8's goal of making the Queensboro Oval, at 59th St. and York Ave., a full-time public park.

To attract a wide audience, the gathering will include a range of attractions, including music by a 5-piece band, clowns and face painting for children, several speakers, and likely, a softball game immediately following the CB8 event.

Currently, speakers include Council Member Kallos and an official with New Yorkers for Parks. The committee identified several additional speakers to be invited, including some elected officials and a prominent Daily News writer. In addition, the committee agreed to seek a sports figure, and possibility a NY1 TV personality, to serve as speakers.

The committee agreed that letters promoting the event should be sent to schools in CB8M and certain sports organizations, such as the New York Road Runners. These organizations, along with our area's elected officials, will be asked to co-sponsor the Queensboro Oval gathering.

The committee will be publicizing the event through email blasts, other wide distribution of flyers and efforts to get coverage of it in various news organizations and social media outlets.

During the event, committee members and others will be seeking signatures on petitions asking the Parks Dept. to deprivatize the Oval.

Moreover, as announced, the Yorkville Sports Association--which uses the Oval in summer for softball games--is attempting to arrange a softball game that would immediately follow CB8's June 25 event.

2. The Hospital for Special Surgery's Proposed Improvements to the East River Esplanade between East 70th and 72nd Streets

Representatives of the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) presented their plans to improve and enhance a portion of the East River Esplanade between 70th and 72nd streets.

Proposed additions to the East River Esplanade include new 1964 World's Fair-style benches with arm rests, improved lighting, refurbished hexagonal pavers along the walkway, a new 8-foot sound barrier wall installed under the hospital's East Wing Building between 70th and 71st streets, and a new ADA-accessible drinking fountain placed near the access to the East 71st St. pedestrian ramp. Plans also include repairing and repainting the existing steel railing in this area.

Landscaping plans call for new plantings, including trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials, and providing an above-ground irrigation system to help sustain them.

A committee member recommended adding a solar-powered telephone in this area of the Esplanade.

The HSS' work on the Esplanade is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2017 and be finished in 3 to 4 months, according to Andrew Moore, the project's landscape architect.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the East River Esplanade in Community Board 8 Manhattan is in poor condition and in urgent need of repairs above and below its surface; and

WHEREAS the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) has proposed an array of repairs and upgrades to the Esplanade between 70th and 72nd streets, near its facility; and

WHEREAS these area improvements include new 1964 World's Fair-style benches with arm rests, improved lighting, refurbished hexagonal pavers along the walkway, installation of an 8-foot sound barrier wall, the addition of an ADA-accessible drinking fountain and painting and other repairs to the area's existing steel railing; and

WHEREAS the HSS' plans also provide for new plantings, including trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials, and an irrigation system to help sustain them; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M supports the Hospital for Special Surgery's proposed repairs and upgrades to the East River Esplanade between 70th and 72nd streets.

VOTE: 8-0-0

CB8 members in favor: Susan Evans, Scott Falk Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider.

Public Members in Favor: Judy Schneider, Trisha Shimamura

OLD BUSINESS

A committee member reported that the East River Esplanade Task Force had met the prior Monday and presented the City's timeline for repairs to the Esplanade on Manhattan's East Side. At the meeting, a Parks Dept. official also announced that, due to expected rising seas caused by global warming, the City's Planning Dept. is working on an initiative entitled, Raise the Shoreline program. If implemented, this program would entail slightly elevating the East River Esplanade between 66th and 81st streets. But although details on this initiative were sketchy, the Parks Dept. official said that work on this program would not necessarily delay planned improvements to the Esplanade.

**Susan Evans and Margaret Price
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee**