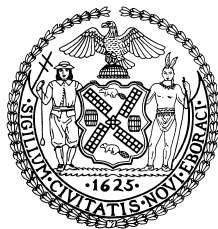


Nicholas D. Viest
Chairman

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue
Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Roosevelt Island Committee Meeting

The Manhattan Theatre Club

8 River Road

Community Room

Roosevelt Island, NY

Thursday, May 30, 2013, 6:30 PM

Committee members present: Jeff Escobar, Larry Parnes, Ellen Polivy
Community Board member present: Ed Hartzog

Members of Public attending – 11

Kristen Ellis, representing Manhattan Borough President Stringer, Tony Morenzi representing Assembly Member Kellner and Christina Parisi representing Congresswoman Maloney were also present.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Jeff Escobar explained the origin and purpose of the committee. It is a merger of the Cornell/Technion task force committee with the previous Roosevelt Island Committee that would funnel issues to the full board and from the board and its committees to the island residents. He also outlined the role of the community board. Each committee member stated they are residents of the island and mentioned their role in specific island organizations.

The meeting continued with brief summaries of recent CB committee meetings relation to Roosevelt Island issues.

Cornell/Technion

Larry Parnes summarized the recent City Council approval of the ULURP actions for the project. He mentioned the commitments made by Cornell in its letter dated May 2, 2013 to Councilmember Lappin. The committee agreed to have that letter posted on the CB 8 web site. It was noted that before construction could begin (Cornell would like to begin in January 2014) approvals of other agencies, including RIOC are necessary. The committee would provide status updates when available.

A member of the public expressed her concern about traffic and damage caused by construction vehicles to the helix connecting the Roosevelt Island Bridge with Main Street. Island resident Matthew Katz pointed out that he had just come from a RIOC meeting where funding was approved for a design study for the reconstruction of the helix.

Q 102 bus

Jeff Escobar explained the recent discussion of the Transportation Committee concerning the Q102 bus which serves Roosevelt Island. David Memgon, a public member of the Transportation Committee and an island resident complained about the Q102 service. Representatives of MTA Bus attended the Transportation Committee meeting to hear the issues. They indicated that a reevaluation of the schedule would be undertaken during the summer. The RI Committee hopes to have a joint meeting with the Transportation Committee in the fall to hear MTA Bus' presentation about the results of its study. Island resident Frank Ferance spoke at this RI Committee meeting and stressed the need to have a predictable and reasonable schedule for the bus.

Queensboro Bridge Bike Lane

Larry Panes summarized the recent full board approval of proposed DOT improvements to the Queensboro Bridge bike lane to minimize conflicts between bikers, vehicles and pedestrians at the Manhattan end of the lane at East 60th Street and First Avenue.

Citi Bike Share program

It was explained by Jeff Escobar that the Transportation Committee and the full community board recommended to DOT that Roosevelt Island having bike sharing locations. Since the first phase of the program only has locations in mid-town and lower Manhattan, a location on Roosevelt Island would come at a later phase of the program. As future locations are proposed, the RI Committee would seek input from island residents. A resident suggested that the program provide portable toilets on the island so bike riders would not have to use local stores. Larry Parnes pointed out that the bike share program is not intended for long term bicycle use, rather for short trips no longer than 45 minutes. While not directly related to Citi Bike share, Judy Berdy, a resident, pointed out that bikes are not permitted in the new FDR Four Freedoms Park (FFP) forcing bikers to park their bikes in the adjacent Southpoint Park. It was suggested that FFP provide bike racks at its entrance.

Goldwater Hospital relocation

Ellen Polivy summarized this issue. Goldwater is slated to close in October of this year with some patients moving to permanent housing and other to a long term care facility in Harlem. It may be necessary to temporarily house some patients in Coler Hospital.

Other Discussion

Jeff Escobar asked that the representatives introduce themselves.

Ellen Polivy briefly described the Community Emergency Response (CERT) Team for the island its involvement with the recent island power blackout. CERT is operated through the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management. She indicated that volunteers are always welcome.

The co-chairs explained that there could be one or two "Public Members" on the committee and asked that people who would like to be considered as a "Public Member" submit a resume to the CB 8 office. Selections would not be made immediately to allow those who may be interested to attend future committee meetings.

A resident asked whether Cornell would be providing jobs for island residents. It was pointed out that while Cornell cannot give preference to residents, they had agreed to disseminate on the island information about jobs.

Another resident expressed concern that 2-4 River Road might be targeted for housing for Cornell students and staff. The committee noted that the first phase of the Cornell project included a building to house staff and students. This would not, of course, preclude people from seeking on their own, residences on the island.

A question was raised about high utility charges in the Manhattan Park buildings, especially the Section236 building. Tony Morenzi of Assembly Member Kellner's office stated that the senator has been researching this issue and the resident who ask to keep in contact with the senator's office.

Island resident Linda Heimer resident noted that the MTA was planning a bus route from Brooklyn to Long Island City and suggested that the route be extended to Roosevelt Island. She thought this could be discussed at the same time as the discussion about the findings of the study of the Q 102 bus. The committee noted this but also indicated that the Q 102 bus is operated by a different part of the MTA (MTABus) than the operator of the bus from Brooklyn (NYCTransit).

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Jeffrey Escobar and Laurence Parnes, Roosevelt Island Committee Co-Chairs