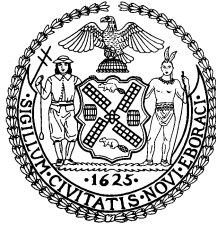


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**The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8  
Roosevelt Island Committee  
Tuesday, September 29, 2015 – 6:30 PM  
Manhattan Park Theatre Club, 8 River Road, Roosevelt Island, NY**

**CB8 Members Present:** Jeffrey R. Escobar and Larry Parness, Co-Chairs, Ellen Polivy

**Public Members Present:** Judy Buck, Judy Schneider

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM

**1. A presentation by Rosina Abramson of ENVAC, as consultants to the Department of Sanitation, relating to the current status and upgrade of Roosevelt Island's AVAC system.**

Although over 700 locations in 30 countries worldwide have adopted the Automated Vacuum System (the "AVAC System") to collect and transport refuse and waste via pneumatic tubes, Roosevelt Island is one of a handful residential communities in the United States who either currently uses or are in the planning stages of using the system to handle solid waste. Installed in 1975, the AVAC system currently services nearly all of the Island residences. The AVAC System is maintained and serviced by the NYC Department of Sanitation, and operated in conjunction with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

ENVAC, as consultants to the NYC Department of Sanitation in the Department's maintenance and services of the AVAC System, appeared before the Committee to give a report on the current status of the AVAC System, the challenges that the current system faces, and the need to maintain and upgrade certain elements. Although given from ENVAC's perspective, the presentation advised on the costs associated with the proposed maintenance and upgrade of the AVAC System, and the fact that the current system has now exceeded its useful life by approximately 10 years.

After the presentation, attendees to the meeting voiced questions and concerns as to the existing problems and current state of the AVAC System in buildings throughout the Roosevelt Island community; the recent stoppage of service that affected a number of the buildings' systems; the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation's position concerning ENVAC's proposal related to the maintenance and upgrade of the existing system; the NYC Department of Sanitation's willingness to proceed with the proposed maintenance and upgrade; the City's current budget as to such maintenance and upgrade; and support for the Community for ENVAC's proposal. The Committee agreed to continue to work on the issue and possibly hold a meeting with ENVAC, the NYC Department of Sanitation and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation as to their current plans, if any, to address the concerns raised by both the community and ENVAC in its proposal.

**2. Discussion regarding proposed FDR Hope Memorial and its review of proposed memorial by the NYC Public Design Commission.**

In conjunction with the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, a presentation was given by the FDR Hope Memorial Committee and Meredith Bergmann, an artist listed under the NYC Arts Commission artist registry,

for the proposed FDR Hope Memorial, which would be installed at the entrance to Southpoint Park. Initiated in 2008, the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association and the FDR Hope Memorial Committee had been working with Ms. Bergmann in designing and constructing a sculpture and plaza that would honor and memorialize President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the country's first disabled President.

The presentation given by the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, the FDR Hope Memorial Committee and artist Meredith Bergmann covered the genesis of how the current design of the sculpture was reached, Ms. Bergmann's thought process in reaching the design of the plaza, the considerations taken in reaching the memorial's current design, and the current status of having the memorial approved, constructed and installed. Both community attendees and Committee members overwhelmingly voiced their support for the memorial itself, as well as its current design. Due to the construction and installation of the memorial being partially funded by City Funds and subject to the review of the NYC Parks Department and Public Design Commission, the Committee proposed and passed the following resolution for the Full Board's consideration:

**Resolution to approve the FDR Hope Memorial Design**

*Whereas*, the FDR Hope Memorial Committee of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association wants to create an inspiring sculpture and plaza that encourages the disabled by depicting FDR as an enabled person in his wheelchair;

*Whereas*, the sculpture will be located in South Point Park just outside the FDR Four Freedoms Memorial on Roosevelt Island;

*Whereas*, the project has been in process since 2008;

*Whereas*, the artist Meredith Bergmann is listed in the Percent for Art artist registry of the NYC Arts Commission and was selected in a competitive process;

*Whereas*, the conceptual design was done step by step by committee and shown to the community at different stages including a public display at the RIVAA art gallery in 2012. The design is permanently on the Roosevelt Islander blog inviting community comment;

*Whereas*, the design is tasteful and appropriate with an attempt to be accurate; and

*Whereas* since the project is being partially funded with city funds and will require review by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Public Design Commission.

*Therefore*, be it **RESOLVED** that the project is **APPROVED** as presented.

Yes 5 Escobar, Parnes, Polivy (CB8 Members); Berdy, Buck (Public Members)

No 0

Abstain 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

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