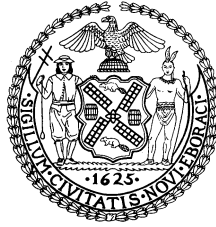


**James G. Clynes**  
Chairman

**Latha Thompson**  
District Manager



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

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

**Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**

**Brick Presbyterian Church**  
**62 East 92<sup>nd</sup> Street (Park-Madison)**  
**Carnegie Room**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2016, 6:30 PM**

CB8M Members in attendance: James Clynes, Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barry Schneider

Public Member in attendance: Judy Schneider

Excused: Scott Falk, Sophia James, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura.

**1. Reconstruction of the Landscape and Perimeter in Central Park, from West 86<sup>th</sup> Street to West 90<sup>th</sup> Street – a joint Issue with the Landmarks Committee**

Officials of the Central Park Conservancy (CPC) presented plans to reconstruct the landscape and perimeter in Central Park, from West 86th St. to West 90th St.

The project aims to address the erosion and compaction of the site from intense use and inadequate irrigation and drainage. It also involves upgrading paths and site furnishings and improving plantings in order to create a more welcoming entrance. Plans also call for creating an ADA- accessible route along the path from Central Park West to the West Drive.

The CPC also proposes improvements to the perimeter of the park in the West 86-West 90 Street area. This will follow similar work underway between East 60<sup>th</sup> and East 65th streets, and West 60th to West 62nd streets.

In the park, the scope of the proposed work includes: constructing new subsurface drainage and irrigation systems; restoring the meadow; improving edge plantings along the 86th Street Transverse edge and the perimeter wall to screen the transverse road and the subway grates along the wall; reconstructing existing paths and replace existing wood and concrete benches with Central Park settees, realigning and grading the steeply sloped paths near the intersection with the West Drive, and installing handrails on the upper portion of the path that meets the Drive.

Plans also call for reconstructing the Park's perimeter between West 86th and West 90th Street. Work will include replacing hexagonal asphalt block pavers in the central walkway, resetting of the granite block in the tree margins that flank the walkway, and reconstructing existing curbs and pedestrian ramps, among other moves. At bus stops located within the project area, the existing hexagonal asphalt block pavers will be replaced with accessible granite block pavers.

CPC officials expect to start this \$5 million project in late 2016 or early 2017 and complete it in about one year.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Central Park Conservancy has created plans to reconstruct the landscape and perimeter in Central Park, from West 86th St. to West 90th St.—a project that aims to address the area’s erosion and compaction from intense use and inadequate irrigation and drainage; and

WHEREAS the scope of work will include such work as constructing new subsurface drainage and irrigation systems, restoring the meadow, improving edge plantings, installing new more appropriate benches, regrading sloped paths and installing handrails, and making various improvements to the park’s perimeter in the work area; and

WHEREAS the proposal also includes creating an ADA- accessible route along the path from Central Park West to the West Drive; and

WHEREAS improvements to the perimeter of the park, between West 86 St. and West 90<sup>th</sup> St., coincide with the CPC’s on-going park-wide effort to restore deteriorated stretches of the park’s perimeter; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan (CB8M) approves of the Central Park Conservancy’s plans to reconstruct the landscape and perimeter in Central Park, from West 86th St. to West 90th St.

These plans include such features as: creating new subsurface drainage and irrigate systems; restoring the meadow, re-grading sloped paths; installing improved furnishings and plantings; creating an ADA-accessible path from Central Park West to West Drive in the park; and undertaking various improvements to the park’s perimeter in the West 86 St. to West 90<sup>th</sup> St. area.

### **VOTE: 8-0-0**

In favor: Jim Clynes, Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider.

## **2. Update on the Status of the Queensboro Oval Project**

The Committee addressed results of a recent meeting called by Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver about the future of the Queensboro Oval. Attendees at this meeting included several elected officials, along with CB8’s chair and Parks Committee co-chairs.

At the session, the Commissioner said his department (DPR) was pausing on plans to issue an RFP for an outside operator of the Oval after the department’s current contract expires next August. Over the next 2-3 months, the Parks Dept. will assess the feasibility of making the Oval a useable park and will consult with the DOT about its need to access the Oval, which is partially under the Ed Koch (Queensboro) Bridge.

By early December, the DPR will announce the results of its assessment. The department would then decide whether to issue an RFP right away--in order to find a concessionaire to operate the park starting late next year--or to extend the RFP process. If the DPR selects the latter course, it would extend the current license for the park for one to two years while the RFP process proceeds.

City funds would have to be allocated for the park. Once all funding is in place, it would take an average 3.5 years to make a space into a usable park, meeting participants were told.

At the Parks Committee meeting, discussion centered around the desirability of the Parks Dept.’s plan. Attendees praised the Parks Dept.’s efforts to address the community’s goal of making the Oval a year-round public park. However, a sticking point centered on the plan for an RFP—which elected officials and CB8M members had strongly objected to at the Parks Committee’s September meeting.

As a solution, the committee chose to urge the Parks Dept. not to issue an RFP. But it did approve of plans to extend the Oval's current license on a short-term annual basis until designs for an attractive, fully accessible year-round park could be implemented.

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan, local elected officials and the Upper East Side community at large have strongly urged the Parks Dept. to convert the now-privatized Queensboro Oval Park to a year-round public park, starting in mid-2017; and

WHEREAS the community applauds the Parks Dept. for holding a recent meeting with local elected officials and some CB8M members to discuss the community's desires as well as the Parks Dept.'s plans for the future of the Queensboro Oval Park; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept.'s current plans for the Queensboro Oval call for issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an operator of the Oval after the current license expires; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan and many local elected officials have strongly objected to plans for an RFP for the future operation of the Oval, since that move would lead to the continued privatization of the Queensboro Oval Park; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan would be open to the plan for re-licensing the Oval on a very short-term, year-by-year basis, until plans exist to convert the space into a park that is open and freely accessible to the public year-round, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan applauds the Parks Dept. for holding a recent meeting with local elected officials and some members of CB8M on the future of the Queensboro Oval Park.

But the Board remains opposed to the department's plans to issue an RFP for the operation of the Oval and respectfully urges the Parks Dept. to abandon that move.

However, the Board is open to a plan to re-license the Oval on a short-term, year-by-year basis, until designs are in place to convert the space to a year-round public park.

### **VOTE: 8-0-0**

In favor: Jim Clynes, Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider.

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