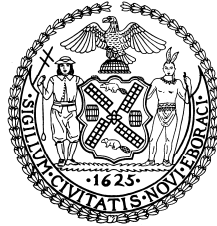


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee Meeting
Lenox Hill Hospital, 130 East 77th St., Theater Room 2-A
Thursday, November 7, 2013, 6:30 PM

CB8M Members in attendance: Susan Evans, Scott Falk, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Timothy Yeo
Transportation Committee Public Member in attendance: Michael Dillon
Excused: Molly Blayney, Sophia James, Rita Popper, Judy Schneider, Barry Schneider, Helene Simon

1. Presentation of a Proposed Sculpture Exhibition on the Park Avenue Mall in Spring, 2014

Jennifer Lantzas, the Parks Dept.'s public art coordinator, presented plans for a temporary exhibit of seven Alice Aycock sculptures next spring along the Park Avenue Malls from E. 52nd St. to E. 66th St. As planned, only one of the art works—the sculpture planned for E. 66th St.—will be located in the CB8M district. The exhibition's other six sculptures will be located in the Park Avenue Malls between East 52nd and E.57th streets.

Sculptures will be newly created for this exhibition. The large art works will stand between 12 and 24 feet high and will be white or a light iridescent color. They will be constructed of painted structural and sheet aluminum and fiberglass. According to a written description by the artist, the abstract works will be designed to “suggest waves, wind turbulences, turbines and vortexes of energy.” They will be “a metaphorical visual residue of the energy of New York City.”

The sculptures will be fully viewable by traffic heading north or south on Park Avenue.

On the malls, the sculptures will sit on large plates sunk about six inches into the ground. Plates will be covered by mulch and surrounded by plantings

Jointly planned by the Fund for Park Avenue and the Parks Dept.'s public art program, the 2014 Aycock exhibit is planned to run from the first week of March to the third week of July.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the NYC Parks Dept. and the Fund for Park Avenue have proposed a temporary exhibition of seven new sculptures by artist Alice Aycock to run along the Park Avenue Malls from the beginning of March to the third week of July, in 2014; and

WHEREAS one of these abstract art works will be located in the CB8M district—on the Park Avenue Mall at East 66th St.; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. plans to make this exhibition easily and safely viewable to traffic coming from the north and south sides of Park Avenue; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. has stated that placement of these sculptures in the Park Avenue Malls will not harm the planting beds in the Malls; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M approves of the plan for an exhibition of seven new sculptures by artist Alice Aycock to run along the Park Avenue Malls from East 52nd St. to East 66th St. from early March until mid-July, 2014.

VOTE 5-0-0

In favor: Susan Evans, Scott Falk, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Tim Yao.

2. Presentation of Consolidated Edison's renovation work in the East 70s area of the East River Esplanade--joint issue with the Transportation Committee

A resolution concerning this issue was approved at the Nov. 13th Land Use meeting.

Representatives from Con Edison and the Parks Dept. presented their plan to renovate a portion of the East River Esplanade from East 72nd to East 76th streets that Con Ed has returned to the City. According to Con Ed officials, renovation work began in October and is expected to be finished in March. Already, a small structure on the Esplanade has been demolished, although the larger building at E. 74 St. will remain.

The project began in October and estimated to be completed in March. During construction, the area pathway will remain closed, except during the holiday period between November 22 and January 2. As described at the meeting, the planned redesign for the area includes creating a planted median between two pathways. World's Fair-style benches will be installed, and paths will be constructed with hex pavers. Following the report, CB8 members in attendance raised several concerns, including: lack of an irrigation facility to water the area's upcoming new plantings; insufficient room on the planned narrow pathways to accommodate cyclists, joggers and pedestrians; overall lack of input from the community on the uses for the Esplanade; and, failure to coordinate the design of this portion of the Esplanade with other portions of the Esplanade scheduled to be renovated.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS a section of the East River Esplanade from East 72nd to East 78th streets previously controlled by Consolidated Edison is being returned to public use and is now being reconstructed; and

WHEREAS the Parks Department's redesign for this area includes two paths for walking and biking with a wide, planted area separating the two paths; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. did not seek public input on the use of the Esplanade in the Community Board 8 district before redesigning this portion of the Esplanade; and

WHEREAS, produced independently, the new design does not conform to other sections of the Esplanade; and

WHEREAS the new design's wide planted area limits the amount of space available for jogging, walking and bicycling, which are the popular uses of the Esplanade; and

WHEREAS the project does not include irrigation needed for the intended plantings in the area; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M asks the Parks Dept. to halt its current reconstruction of the Esplanade between East 72nd St and East 78th St., until the City elicits public input on the use of the Esplanade on the Upper East Side of Manhattan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at minimum, CB8M urges the Parks Dept. both to alter its current design for the reconstruction of the East 72nd-East 78th streets area of the Esplanade to narrow the width of the planted area and to broaden the walk-way to provide a wider, safer space for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists and to provide needed irrigation for the plantings of that section; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB8M reiterates its call for a master plan for the design of the full length of the East River Esplanade and stresses the need for public input on the design of such a master plan.

VOTE: 6-0-0

In favor: Susan Evans, Scott Falk, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Timothy Yeo
Public Member in favor: Michael Dillon

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder, Parks Committee Co-Chairs