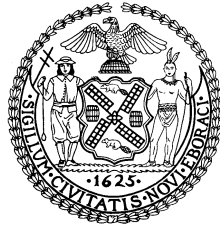


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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**

**Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**  
**Brick Presbyterian Church**  
**62 East 92<sup>nd</sup> Street (Park-Madison)**  
**Carnegie Room**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015**  
**6:30 PM**

CB8M members in attendance: Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Rita Popper.

Public Member in attendance: Judy Schneider

Excused: Scott Falk, Sharon Pope, Trisha Shimamura

**1. John Jay Park: The need to repair and upgrade the park's basketball court.**

The committee addressed a range of concerns about the growing disrepair of John Jay Park's basketball court and how the area should be repaired and upgraded.

Attendees cited numerous concerns with the ball court. Problems included lack of ADA accessibility to the area's main entrance, flooding due to poor drainage, broken pavement, dilapidated benches and fencing, and faulty equipment, such as basketball hoops without any nets.

With input from the public and CB8M members, the committee identified the following equipment needs:

- New fiberglass backboards to replace the 3 old, rusty ones;
- New basketball rims with hooks for hanging nets;
- On the pavement, repainted free-throw lines and 3-point arcs.

According to the committee, repairs and improvements to the entire ball court should include:

- Installing an entrance ramp and water fountain that are ADA-compliant for wheelchair users;
- Resurfacing all paved areas, with painted lines to delineate the baseball diamond, the soccer field, the football area and the track;
- Replacing the chain-link fence and damaged benches and repairing the faulty manhole/drainage system.

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS** the CB8M district has among the least amount of parkland of any district in New York City and an extremely limited space for ball playing--especially given the large population of Manhattan's Upper East Side; and

**WHEREAS** deteriorating conditions at the ball court at John Jay Park has made this area dangerous for users as well as visually unattractive; and

**WHEREAS** the growing array of problems at this ball court include poor drainage, deteriorated equipment, including basketball backboards and hoops, dilapidated fencing and benches, and broken, unsafe pavement; and

**WHEREAS** the ball court's entrance and a water fountain are not ADA-compliant; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M strongly urges the Dept. of Parks and Recreation to repair and upgrade the deteriorated ball court at John Jay Park. Urgent repairs should include a new drainage system; new basketball

backboards and netting for hoops; new fencing; new benches; repaving the ball court and repainting the lines on it used for ball playing. In addition, the court's entrance and water fountain need to become ADA-accessible.

**VOTE: 7-0-0**

**In favor:** Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sophia James, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Rita Popper.

**Public Member in favor:** Judy Schneider

## **2. Update on Two Projects: the Plan to Create a Park at 1190 Second Ave. and the Effort to De-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park**

1190 Second Ave.: The Committee has been discussing various ways to further the plan to create a park at 1190 Second Ave. @ 63<sup>rd</sup> St. That lot is now owned by the MTA and is being used as a work site for the MTA's East Side Access Transportation project. But the MTA plans to vacate the site in 2018.

Since the MTA has been unwilling so far to meet with CB8M about the park project, the committee has sought the help of State Assembly Member Seawright. A member of her staff told the committee that the Assembly Member plans to write an op ed article about the park project. In addition, the offices of BP Gale Brewer and Ms. Seawright have tried contacting the MTA to arrange a meeting on the project.

The committee decided on a campaign to raise public awareness about the 1190 Second Ave. project. As an initial step, the committee, along with two members of the public, plans to hold a public event—likely on a Friday evening in February--focused on the park project. The committee is asking Assembly Member Seawright to be one of the event's speakers.

Queensboro Oval: In July, CB8M passed a resolution urging the Parks Dept. to halt further privatization of the Queensboro Oval after the department's current contract with Sutton East Tennis expires in 2017. Since July, the committee has been seeking elected officials' support for CB8M's resolution. The committee will be stepping up this effort. And later this month, representatives of the committee will stress the need to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval at a major Parks Dept. meeting (described in the minutes' agenda item #3), entitled Parks Without Borders.

## **3. Discussion of the Upcoming Meeting about the City's Parks Without Borders Initiative**

Representatives of the Parks and Recreation Committee will attend the Parks Dept.'s (DPR) November 20 meeting about the City's new Parks Without Borders Initiative. At that session, the committee will stress an urgent issue for the Upper East Side: the need to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park, leaving it open and accessible to the public year-round.

The committee decided that, among its major projects, Queensboro Oval de-privatization fit many of the parameters of Parks Without Borders. That new City initiative aims to make NYC outdoor spaces more welcoming, accessible and better connected to its neighborhood.

The objective of the Nov. 20 meeting: communities will nominate up to eight sites citywide that will qualify for \$50 million of mayoral funding for Parks Without Borders capital projects," a report stated. The City will also seek input "for smaller projects in parks, citywide."

Hosted by the DPR, the Nov. 20 meeting will include representatives of Manhattan's 12 community boards.

## **Old Business**

### **Status of Work on the Esplanade's 81<sup>st</sup> St. Bridge**

At a recent meeting attended by a committee member, it was learned that the Esplanade's 81<sup>st</sup> St. Bridge is due to be completed in early September, 2016.

A major phase of this construction is about to begin. But to area residents, construction work—ranging from excessive noise to trucks blocking doorways—already has caused problems.

In response to a question, a consultant with the Dept. of Design and Construction (DDC) said that DDC would patch seawall cracks as part of the bridge project. But when the project is finished, the Parks Dept. will do more complete seawall repairs.

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