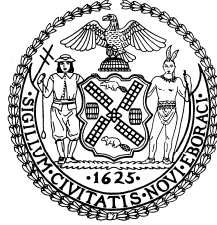


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee Meeting
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
331 East 70th St., Auditorium
Thursday, December 5, 2013, 6:30 PM

CB8 Members Present: Lowell Barton, Michele Birnbaum, Molly Blayney, Susan Evans, Scott Falk, Ed Hartzog, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder

Excused: Sophia James, Rita Popper, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Helene Simon

1. Possible Sites for Additional Open Space in CB8M

The Committee reviewed the results of this fall's study of possible sites for open space in CB8M. The study, undertaken by Max Yeston, CB8M's community planning fellow, was part of the Parks Committee's Open Space initiative to find more public green space on Manhattan's Upper East Side. This fall, Mr. Yeston, a student at Columbia University, walked the blocks from 59-96th St., and from Park and First Avenue, seeking prospects for additional open space. In his subsequent report, Mr. Yeston identified 10 such sites. After much discussion, the Parks Committee picked two of these sites as the most promising open space candidates: 321 East 61st St., the empty lot where the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help once stood; and 1190 2nd Avenue, a large corner lot owned by New York City Transit, now mainly used for parking.

The Committee will discuss these sites with local elected officials—or their representatives—at its next meeting January 23. The committee also will be reaching out to organizations, such as the Project for Public Spaces and the Open Space Institute, to seek their assistance.

2. Discussion of plans for a fall 2014 forum on the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district

Many developments have occurred since the Parks Committee held its initial forum on the need to renovate and redesign the East River Esplanade: Despite the Parks Department's engineering study on conditions along the Esplanade, the Department has still not prepared a master plan for its redesign—despite the emergence of private funding to renovate portions of the Esplanade in CB8M. Meanwhile, public funding has become available to address the effects on the Esplanade of climate change, including rising seas and worsening storms.

As more of these pressing issues arise, the Committee has decided to hold a second forum, next October, about repairing and redesigning the Esplanade. Possible speakers could include Parks Dept.'s designer of the East Midtown Waterfront project, as well as other planners, engineers, experts in storm control, and elected officials.

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder, Parks Committee Co-Chairs