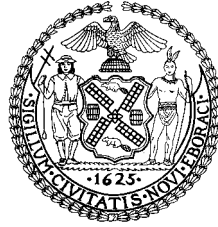


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center
415 East 93rd St.
Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:30 PM

CB8M Members in Attendance: Alida Camp, Jim Clynes, Susan Evans, Lorraine Johnson, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura.

Public Member in Attendance: Judy Schneider

1. Funding to Continue the Repair and Upgrade of the East River Esplanade on Manhattan's Upper East Side—*a joint issue with the Waterfront Committee*

The committee and members of the public agreed that additional funding—in the amount of \$120 million-- is urgently needed to boost the safety and usefulness of the East River Esplanade in the CB8M district.

That sum would be in addition to the \$35 million the City has already allocated for Esplanade repairs and upgrades.

In discussing the need for Esplanade funding, a Parks Committee member described the area's deteriorating conditions. She cited such problems as dangerous sink holes, missing and broken fencing, unsightly conditions around the former Con Edison area, and a dark and wet enclosed area, covering several blocks of the Esplanade north of the 91st St. pier.

Several attendees also cited the need for irrigation system to support the park's plantings. And some CB8 members also pointed to the lack of a master plan to ensure continuity to the appearance of the Esplanade where repairs and improvements are taking place. The committee agreed to address whether a master plan is needed at upcoming Parks Committee meeting.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the need for repairs and upgrades to the East River Esplanade on Manhattan's Upper East Side has become increasingly urgent as the area continues to deteriorate, creating ever more dangerous conditions; and

WHEREAS such eroding conditions range from missing barriers along the highway side of the Esplanade; to broken fencing; to sinkholes on the pathway; to worsening blight around the former Con Edison area of the Esplanade and to the deteriorating sub-surface structures; and

WHEREAS an engineering study several years ago had identified the need for \$115 million to repair the Esplanade on the Upper East Side, but so far, the City budget has allocated only \$35 million of that total; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan urges the City Council to allocate an additional \$120 million in its fiscal 2018 budget to complete urgently needed infrastructure repairs to the East River Esplanade on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

VOTE: 11-0-0

In favor: Alida Camp, Jim Clynes, Susan Evans, Lorraine Johnson, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura.

Public Member: In favor Judy Schneider

2. Extending the Hours that the NYC Roller Hockey League Can Use the Roller Hockey Rink at Stanley Isaacs Park

Joshua Brower, a board member of the New York City Roller Hockey League is seeking approval to expand from 10pm to 11pm the weekday hours the league can play roller hockey at the Paul McDermott rink in Stanley Isaacs Park.

If approved, roller hockey games would start at 7:30 pm and finish by 11:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

The change would enable the league to add a third game, starting at 9:30 pm. The prior two games would start at 7:30 pm and at 8:30 pm. The league’s playing season ranges from late March until early December.

According to Mr. Brower, the new schedule would increase the league’s flexibility with managing programs for middle school children, along with adults.

A local resident, who is also a CB8 member, said that the community supports the change, since the league so far hasn’t created noise or lighting problems. However, she did note that, at times, players park their cars on the local sidewalk—a situation that Mr. Brower promised to address.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the New York City Roller Hockey League has requested approval to expand by one hour—to 11 pm—the time it can play roller hockey at the Paul McDermott rink in Stanley Isaacs Park; and

WHEREAS this change would enable the league to add an extra game, starting at 9:30 pm, to its weekday game schedule; and

WHEREAS the local community supports this request, noting that the league, so far, has created no noise disturbance or lighting problems for local residents; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan approves the request by New York City Roller Hockey League to expand by one hour-- to 11pm-- the weekday hours it can use the roller hockey rink in Stanley Isaacs Park.

VOTE: 11-0-0

In favor: Alida Camp, Jim Clynes, Susan Evans, Lorraine Johnson, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura.

Public Member: In favor Judy Schneider

3. Funding Requests to Convert the Queensboro Oval to a Multi-Use Public Park

Meeting attendees discussed the Parks Dept.’s short-term decisions about the use of the Queensboro Oval and voted on funding requests needed to make the Oval a year-round public park.

The Community Board, and many members of the public, had urged the Parks Dept. to de-privatize the Oval this year, and make it a year-round public park.

But the Parks Dept. recently announced a different plan: It will extend its license of the Oval to Sutton East Tennis for one year. After that, the department may implement two more one-year extensions of this license. During this up-to-three-year period, the department says it will consider the long-term use of the Oval. But while this process is underway, the department said it wants the space “fully activated.”

However, the Parks Committee remains committed to having the Oval used as a year-round public park. To continue this effort, the committee voted to request the funding needed to convert the Oval to a multi-use park. Although the Parks Dept. had put this cost at \$6.2 million, the committee felt that additional funding would be needed to ensure that the project—if ultimately approved by the City—would be completed as quickly as possible.

Thus, in separate resolutions, the committee voted to request funding of the City Council and of the Manhattan Borough President.

RESOLUTIONS (A and B)

A. Request of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Ben Kallos, representing Council District 5:

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan has among the least parkland of any district in New York City, despite its huge and growing population; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan (CB8M), as well as CB6M and much of the Upper East Side community, have strongly urged the City to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park to allow this space—already funded by the City’s taxpayers—to become a year-round public park; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has stated that it requires obtaining full funding before such a conversion of the Queensboro Oval could take place; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has cited a cost of more than \$6 million to convert the Queensboro Oval to a multi-use public park; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan asks New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and City Council Member Ben Kallos to designate \$6 million from the City’s fiscal 2018 budget to ensure that the Queensboro Oval is quickly converted to a multi-use park that is open year-round to the public.

VOTE: 8-0-0

In favor: Jim Clynes, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider.
Public Member: In favor Judy Schneider

B. Request of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan has among the least parkland of any district in New York City, despite its huge and growing population; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan (CB8M), as well as CB6M and much of the Upper East Side community, have strongly urged the City to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park to allow this space—already funded by the City’s taxpayers—to become a year-round public park; and

WHEREAS the City's Parks Dept. has stated that it requires obtaining full funding before such a conversion of the Queensboro Oval could take place; and

WHEREAS the City's Parks Dept. has cited a cost of more than \$6 million to convert the Queensboro Oval to a multi-use public park; and

WHEREAS CB8M is seeking \$6 million of funding from the New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Kallos, but needs an additional \$4 million, since the City's park projects often face cost overruns after a project has begun; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan asks Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer to designate \$4 million from the City's fiscal 2018 budget to ensure that the Queensboro Oval is quickly converted to a multi-use park that is open year-round to the public.

VOTE: 8-0-0

In favor: Jim Clynes, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider.

Public Member: In favor Judy Schneider

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