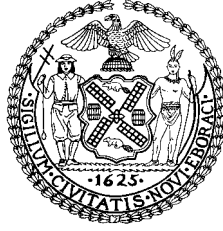


**Alida Camp**  
**Chair**

**Will Brightbill**  
**District Manager**



**505 Park Avenue, Suite 620**  
**New York, N.Y. 10022-1106**  
**(212) 758-4340**  
**(212) 758-4616 (Fax)**  
**www.cb8m.com - Website**  
**info@cb8m.com - E-Mail**

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

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 6:30PM  
Hunter College - Glass Café  
695 Park Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### **MINUTES**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Alexandra Harrington, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Judy Schneider

**Community Board Members Absent (Excused):** Sophia James

**Community Board Public Member Absent (Excused):** Irma Torres

**1. Discussion of Possible Dog Forum:** In an effort to address ongoing community concerns related to dog owner behavior in parks, sidewalks and streets, CB8's Parks Committee would like to organize a Dog Forum in the fall of 2018. Co-Chair Barry Schneider recently attended a Manhattan Dog Forum in April and invited one of the organizers, Deborah Zingale, Administrative Manager at the Parks Department, to discuss the planning process.

Ms. Zingale reports to Michael Dockett, the Assistant Commissioner who oversees the Urban Park Service division, which includes Parks Enforcement Patrol and Central Communications. The Urban Park Service has continued to work on dog owner education and not solely act through enforcement measures.

Below is a summary of Ms. Zingale's presentation:

- After administering a survey to dog run users and related interest groups, Parks determined that borough-specific forums were most preferred.
- The Parks Forum included representatives from Parks Capital Projects, Partnership for Parks, Animal Care Center of NY, NYC Department of Health, ASPCA, and others.
- The Forum offered educational guidance on rules, as well as resources for dog owners, such as opportunities for free/low-cost inoculations and services to help pet owners keep their pets.
- There are several dog-run issues that Parks is still addressing, including the allowance of non-neutered animals in dog runs and how to engage dog owners who continue to break park rules. Currently, Parks does not have dedicated funding that specifically funds a team to maintain and repair NYC's 70 dog runs.
- Parks is still in the midst of changing its signage policies and design. These changes will also affect dog run signs, which may soon include "dog run etiquette" language.

The Parks Committee discussed the importance of peer-based accountability and possible public service announcements encouraging adherence to park rules. The Co-chairs will begin to reach out to other committees to discuss the forum and will try to find a suitable date this fall.

**2. Discussion of ongoing projects along the East River Esplanade and report from Friends of the East River Esplanade:** Although the Parks Department will be making a more thorough presentation on Esplanade repairs at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Co-Chairs gave a brief report from the May 14<sup>th</sup> Esplanade taskforce meeting held by Congresswoman Maloney and Council Member Kallos. Friends of the East River Esplanade's new Executive Director, Melanie Rose, also made a brief presentation, discussing new plantings at 96<sup>th</sup> Street plant beds, and the upcoming Alice Aycock Pavilion event on June 2.

Below are notes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> taskforce meeting:

- Currently, the NYC Economic Development Corporation is conducting a structural reassessment of the seawall (to be done by the end of 2018). Based on what they find, there may be a reordering of esplanade priorities. The Parks Department is receiving \$60 million dollars in the 2018 City Budget for Esplanade repairs.

**89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Street:**

- o Work continues to take place on the 90<sup>th</sup> Street pier for ferry service (set to open in August 2018)
- o In order to get from the ferry stop to the street, a pedestrian pathway is going to be constructed through the construction area that is being used to fix the seawall at 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Streets.
  - The pedestrian pathways will not ADA accessible
  - Will be only open when ferry service is offered
- o In regards to the seawall repairs, the construction bridge has been completed, and demo will begin soon, with expected completion in Winter of 2018
- o The Parks Department has estimated that the total reconstruction of this site will be \$8 million

**83<sup>rd</sup> Street:**

- o Brearley School has agreed to contribute \$1 million dollars to redesigning the "Brearley Pier", otherwise known as the overhang at the esplanade at 83<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- o Brearley is currently receiving comments about the pier design proposals, which you can see at Council Member Kallos' website: [www.benkallos.com](http://www.benkallos.com). You can also send comments to [facilitiesproject@brearley.org](mailto:facilitiesproject@brearley.org)
- o New design has new lighting and anti-roosting strategy

**78<sup>th</sup> Street to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street:**

- o HSS will commit to repairing this section in 2022

**75<sup>th</sup> to 73<sup>rd</sup> Street (known as ConEd site):**

- o Not expected to be complete until 2019
- o Council Member Kallos is looking into potentially getting a community group to do some temporary plantings/beautification work at this site in the interim

**71<sup>st</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Street:**

- o HSS has completed construction of a sound barrier and water fountain

**70<sup>th</sup> to 68<sup>th</sup> Street:**

- o Parks Department is planning on doing topside repairs in order to maintain continuity of design with the rest of the Esplanade

**68<sup>th</sup> to 64<sup>th</sup> Street:**

- o Rockefeller University has reopened the esplanade in this section

**60<sup>th</sup> Street:**

- o Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 2A/Alice Aycock Pavilion has reopened

3. **Update on Ruppert Park:**The Muslim Volunteers of New York (MVNY) presented on the Ruppert Park Earth Day event, which took place on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to funding from the Parks Department and Council Member Kallos, the Earth Day celebration had 165 volunteers to clean up the park and offered a number of other community activities, including a craft project, park ranger presentation, jazz band, and refreshments. Approximately \$4,000 worth of plants were planted at this event. They plan on doing another large event in the fall of 2018. MVNY continues to speak with Parks about potential small events over the summer.

Parks plans on making additional minor repairs (such as painting the cinder block walls) soon. Mark Vaccaro from the Parks Department will also follow up on the Committee's outstanding questions about either updating the irrigation or water sources, as well as any funding that may still be allocated for this park.

#### **4. Old Business**

**5. New Business:** Co-Chair Barry Schneider alerted the Committee of a new book by Betsy Barlow Rogers called *Saving Central Park*. The book discusses the history of the park, and includes the contributions of Andrew Haswell Green.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**Tricia Shimamura and Barry Schneider**  
**Co-Chairs Parks and Recreation Committee**