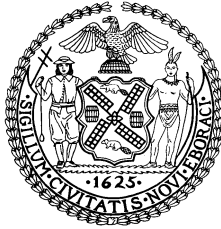


Alida Camp  
Chair

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**The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8  
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**

NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Conference Room 1 & 2  
July 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM

**MINUTES**

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Manhattan Community Board 8.*

**Community Board Members (Present):** Billy Freeland, Craig Lader, David Rosenstein, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura, Lynne Strong, Greg Kirschenbaum

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Alexandra Harrington, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Judy Berdy, Irma Torres, Judy Schneider

**1. On-going discussion of Ruppert Park, with updates by Wes Hamilton of NYC DP&R**

- Ruppert Park was originally designed by City's HPD and then turned over to Parks in 1997. The one acre park is on a hill and is a difficult location to maintain.
- Muslim Volunteers for NY have been planting, watering and working in the park and will be doing programming every other Friday in conjunction with the Parks Dept. On Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be arts and crafts event for children.
- The bid from Pacific Lawn sprinklers to put in a complete water system with sprinkler heads is approximately \$50,000. Parks does not have this currently in the budget, and therefore the money would have to be raised for this. The price was divided into two parts: \$10,000 for boxes and hose bibs, which allow for hand watering. And an additional \$40,000 for sprinkler heads.
- Dogs are a constant problem in the park. Parks Dept. has decided that the entire area is to be treated as a playground and therefore NO DOGS will be permitted. New signage is in the process of being made and should be installed by August. Enforcement has not been successful so far. It was suggested when new signage is posted, PEP officers should patrol.
- When the signage is installed it will have to allow for adults that are not accompanied by children.
- "No Feeding Pigeons" signs are also needed.
- Metal posts about 4' high located in the NE quadrant need to be removed.
- Fencing is needed for areas that have been planted, possibly snow fencing.
- Quadrants with gates need padlocks so it isn't inviting for dog walkers/owners.
- The Dog Forum, to be scheduled in the fall, was briefly discussed. The forum should focus not only on park rules, but also resources for dog owners and how various stakeholders can work together to ensure the wellbeing of the parks.

**2. On-going discussion of Ferry Service at 90<sup>th</sup> Street Pier and Esplanade Work Between 88<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Street**

- Following up on the June Parks discussion, the Parks Department sent the Co-Chairs photos and a brief update on the Esplanade repairs between 88-90<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The expected end date for Phase 1 of construction along the seawall near the 90<sup>th</sup> street pier is August 2018
- Phase 2 construction, inclusive of the topside repairs around Gracie Mansion, will begin at the end of July/early August, and is expected to end Winter 2018 or early 2019, depending on the severity of the winter.

- During Phase 2, community member can expect to see the following equipment:
- Excavators, dump trucks, drill rig, and concrete trucks
- EDC has not confirmed a specific opening date for the 90<sup>th</sup> Street ferry, but has maintained that the ferry is still scheduled to open in August. The Community Board will send neighbors an email when we receive a more firm date.
  - A 6-ft wide pedestrian path will be created towards the northern end of the park in order to bring passengers from the ferry dock to the street. EDC has sent over a basic outline of the route, but has not sent a detailed outline of the path. Parks has reported that no trees will be removed for the pedestrian path.
- All photos sent from Parks and EDC will be made available on the Community Board 8 Parks website.

### 3. Updates on Tramway Plaza (Joint with Roosevelt Island Committee)

- Two new elevators are being installed to replace the existing elevator and lift. They will be ADA compliant and allow for a large queue area on the platform.
- The update received from Prince Shah of RIOC just before the meeting was as follows: “Regarding the Tram Elevator project, we are awaiting construction fence permit from the Department of Buildings. We anticipate receiving it by mid-next week. Once we have the permit in place, we will be on site setting up the fence and beginning work.” RIOC will attend the September meeting with an update.
- The green construction fence should include signage with contact information and a completion date.
- There was an extensive discussion about replacing all 5 trees scheduled to be removed back in the park verses in the surrounding area. The planned water feature was also discussed. Both the replacement of trees and the water feature were supported in Community Board resolutions in June.
- Contractor in the field said they would install a system for lights to be turned off when tram was not running. However, RIOC has not officially agreed. We will follow up this item.
- Parks Dept. is working on sprinkler system and updating the cost. The \$50,000 allotted will probably not be enough.

### 4. Report by Wesley Hamilton Community District 8 Manager for NYC DP&R

- There will be a movie at 24 Sycamores Park on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A scoping meeting will be scheduled for 14 Honey Locust Park.
- GreenStreets on 66<sup>th</sup> Street at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will finally start installation in September. Funding for this project was provided by Council Member Garodnick.

### 5. Old/New Business

- 24 Sycamores Park should go out for bid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time by the end of August, if the bids come in too high again parks will have to look at adding some money to CM Lappin’s grant.
- Esplanade – Parks is looking into requesting federal funding through CMAC-Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality for the Esplanade
- John Jay Park - a design for the south east corner of John Jay Park will be presented by the Parks Department in September, as per the scoping session held in March, for the community to give their input. This will be the main item on the agenda.
- Abigail Saltzman, of Assembly Member Seawright’s Office, discussed potentially new open space in the form of a plaza at 515 East 79 Street/Austin Parks Residential Plaza. Construction at this site has been ongoing and the plaza has been closed for 2 years.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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