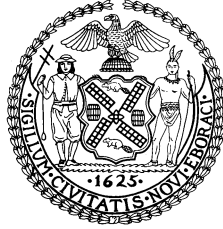


Alida Camp  
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## The City of New York Community Board 8 Manhattan

**Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**  
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium  
September 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM

**Community Board Members (Present):** Alida Camp, Alexandra Harrington, Greg Kirschenbaum, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura,  
**Community Board Members (Excused):** Sophia James, Craig Lader  
**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Judy Schneider  
**Community Board Public Member (Excused):** Irma Torres

*Note: Items were switched from the posted agenda in order to allow more time for community members to arrive and hear the presentation on John Jay Park.*

### 1. Updates and Review of ongoing concerns and projects in other parks within Community Board 8.

- St. Catherine's Park – The water is expected to be restored in October.
- 90<sup>th</sup> Street Ferry service – The Soundview Route is officially open. Members of the community have identified some ongoing concerns in ferry access and service that are still to be worked out, including: making 90 Street Ferry handicap accessible, linking ferry service with Metro Cards, increasing boat capacity to avoid long waits, and establishing the same senior discount fares that are offered for subways and bus service. Construction is still occurring on the seawall and may be complete by the first of the year. Hopefully we will have an update on this next month.
- Tramway Plaza – The Plaza continues to be closed for 12 months for construction of the new elevators.
- 24 Sycamores Park – The renovation of the bathrooms will be going out for 3<sup>rd</sup> bid by November or December.
- 14 Honey Locust Park – The Parks Department will hold a scoping meeting planned for October.
- Ruppert Park – Ruppert Park may soon receive additional funding that could be used for a major repair. More to come on this issue in the fall. The Muslim Volunteers of New York have been doing an excellent work in the park. There will be a concert on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 pm, and a fall event in the next few months.

### 2. Presentation by NYC DP&R on proposed renovations to the S E Corner of John Jay Park by Tyler Parlato, Leslie Peoples and Manhattan Commissioner William Castro.

Following a scoping session held on March 8, 2018, the Parks Department presented its design proposal for the south east corner of John Jay Park. A full copy of the presentation is available in the Board Office and will be posted to the Parks Committee webpage.

The overall project has a budget of \$400,000, allocated by Council Member Ben Kallos. After a design is finalized, the procurement process will take approximately 6 months and the overall construction will take no more than 1 year.

The proposal included adding additional benches and picnic tables to the area, as well as removing

the adult exercise equipment that is currently along the edge of the basketball courts. The proposal also included replacing the monkey bars and chin up bars in the far southern edge of the area with 3 new equipment pieces that are more accessible for users and would be installed in the back south east corner of the park. Parks also proposed expanding the safety padding on the south east corner and removing the 2 plant areas that line the southern edge of the space.

Several community members commented on the design, and priorities/opinions of the project ranged. Some expressed frustration towards the new proposed equipment, noting that the new equipment would be a downgrade to the existing monkey bars and chin up bars. Others expressed concern about the loss of the plant beds at the southern edge of the park without any meaningful proposal of new topside landscaping work. Some reiterated their request for a passive recreation area that invites community members to sit and enjoy the park, while others noted the importance of this open area to those who utilize the exercise equipment on a daily basis.

During the discussion, it was noted that there seemed to be general consensus on the following:

- The overall space could be designed to meet both goals of improving the exercise area while also creating a passive, quiet recreation area with thoughtful redesign of the layout, which includes taking out the movable equipment along the basketball courts
- Some of the equipment (particularly the monkey bars and the chin up bars) are regularly used and the Parks Department should consider keeping these pieces.
- The redesign proposal currently lacks sufficient topside landscaping/flower beds that would make the area a more enjoyable and inviting place to sit.

Further discussion took place on the design proposal. Committee members suggested looking at the broader design of John Jay, as well as data on who uses the park regularly and when. Members also suggested adding new signage that discourages noisy activity (like skateboarding or ball throwing). The Committee reaffirmed their commitment towards finding a middle ground, and requested that the Parks Department apply this input to the design. The Parks Department agreed to reconsider their proposal and come back to the Committee in the next few months with a revised proposal.

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

- He announced our new Volunteer Project Coordinator from Partnership for Parks, Ashley Kuenneke. She can be reached at [Ashley.Kuenneke@Parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Ashley.Kuenneke@Parks.nyc.gov)
- Gracie Square Art Show at Carl Schurz Park on Saturday and Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Movies under the stars:
  - Carl Schurz on September 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Stanley Isaacs September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Carl Schurz on September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Seabury Park on September 29<sup>th</sup>
- Skate Night at John Jay Park 4 to 9 pm September 14<sup>th</sup>
- Fun at Ruppert Park 4 to 6 pm September 14<sup>th</sup>
- Family Fun day St. Catherine's Noon to 3pm September 29

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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