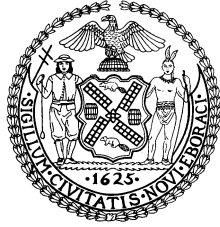


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197-a QUEENSBORO BRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE
Phase IIB and III and the Greenway of
Andrew Haswell Green (AHG) Park, Joint with Parks Committee
September 27, 2018

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 Community Board 8 Manhattan.

MINUTES

Board Members in attendance: Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, M. Barry Schneider

Excused Board Members: Peggy Price, Chris Deluzio

Community Board Public Members: Judith Schneider

Excused Community Board Public Members: A. Scott Falk, Irma Torres

1. **Andrew Haswell Green Phase (AHG) Phase III Presentation:** Introduction by Kathryn Prybylski of NYC EDC, and presentation by Adam Ferrari of Stantec. The presentation was excellent, and we urge everyone to go to the 197-a Committee website to look at the plans.
 - Kathryn told us the Greenway work will include:
 - Pedestrian and bicycle path and paving and the continuation of the waterfront railing to meet AHG Phase IIB.
 - When they come back to the Community Board in October, they will have an estimate of costs, so that we know the amount of funds that have to be raised to bring Adam's presentation to fruition.
 - Adam gave a very thorough presentation and reviewed all the requests that were made at the last scoping meeting for how the community would like to see the building developed, as well as the southern tip of land outside the building where the Greenway will connect with CB8M. A main change in the building will be the openings on the north and south side ends of the building will be moved to the water side of the building. The railing will continue all along the Greenway including in front the former sanitation building.
 - The items that the members of the community suggested and that they incorporated into the project are:
 - A sound barrier wall on the far west side of the building along the FDR which would be 8' high. This could be constructed out of various materials and could have greenery for added sound dampening.
 - Inside the space (almost the center of the space) could be a 14' high screening off the space being used by the Parks Dept. for their equipment. Also, could have sound dampening.
 - Utilities: water is available; need drainage, sewer and electric for lighting.
 - Interior space available could have a food kiosk, bathrooms, chairs and tables for about 50 people.
 - The openings on the water side (East) could have gentle swing seating. There is a 6' wide pathway on the water side of the building.
 - Adam went over all the available space for plantings that could be done in this area.
 - The community asked for a staircase to access the pavilion with the roundabout above. Two solutions:
 - One solution was a long winding ramp that would take up a lot of ground space and since in would go under the QB Bridge, it might be difficult to engineer, as netting or a protective covering would be required by DOT in case anything was to fall from the bridge. This solution was not well received by the community.

- The solution everyone liked the best was a large staircase with a large landing midway. However, Adam said the Parks Department would not be happy with this as it is not ADA accessible. DPR policy is to build new spaces as fully accessible. This is something the Board said that they would want too, and would work with Parks Department on the possibility of a waiver.
- The biggest problem with completing this part of the park is that it is in a flood plain. In order to put in permanent food Kiosk and rest room facilities, this area would have to be reinforced. If it were not reinforced, a waiver from BSA would be required—which is problematic, but something the community would want to do.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the community would like the staircase to the Pavilion to become a reality and would like to work with the Parks Department to see that happen, and

WHEREAS the community looks forward to hearing from EDC on projected costs for this work in the very near future,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 strongly supports the conceptual plans and would like the City Agencies to move forward in an expeditious manner.

Approved: 3-0-0 Board Members (Yes Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider)

Approved: 1-0-0 Public Member (Yes J. Schneider)

2. Update by the NYC EDC, Consultants, Parks on Phase IIB by: Rebecca Parelman-EDC, Layng Pew of WXY, Louis Kaminsky of Jacobs, George Bloomer of Parks

- Rebecca Parelman did an introduction to the project and then Layng Pew did an extensive presentation of the current plan from the initial plan presented over six years ago.
- The Ramp from 60th Street down to the waterfront had the most significant changes:
 - Code and inspection requirements from partner agencies required removal of all previously proposed elements permanently affixed to the ramp and moveable elements that weighted more than 300lbs, which includes removal of the planters would not be considered as a replacement.
 - The triangular house at the top of the ramp will be removed. There is a proposal for there to be a clear viewing of the river from that location.
 - Code and inspection requirements from partner agencies required removal of all elements affixed to the ramp, which includes removal of the proposed pavers. Alternatively, it is anticipated that concrete will be used as the ramp surface with an undulating pattern of bright green graphics (organic pavement markings) flowing up the ramp from 60th Street down to the water front level. At the top of the ramp there are proposed round SoMA stones (concrete) for seating to look at the river. It is a very inviting pattern.
 - There will be a DOT-standard straight rail chain-link fence along the parapet wall going along the west side of the ramp.
 - There are proposed to be bollards at 60th Street and York Avenue, with one being removable.
- The Park and Planted area:
 - There will be a large concrete staircase dissecting the middle of the park from the mid-ramp down to the water level. It will have two landings for access to the lawn. The staircase includes seating blocks like a form of stadium seating on the south side of the staircase.
 - The planting on the south side of the staircase will be trees, bushes, shrubs, plants etc. with no public access to that area, except for required maintenance.
 - The north side of the staircase at the top will be planted, then a landing for people to access the next terraced layer of grass and then comes the largest part of the green lawn, which has plantings around the exterior.
 - The green lawn also has an accessible ramp for wheelchairs.

- The plantings are drought-tolerant and appropriate for their location near the water.
- There will be an irrigation system.
- Lighting: the traditional Riverside Fixture will be along the waterside and in the park. On the north/west side along the ramp, the design includes a proposed pedestrian height Davit Pole, which is better suited to the height of the pedestrians and bicyclist in that area.
- The proposed new railing will meet up with the Greenway railing.
- Signage on Tramway stanchion is under discussion with RIOC.
- Design should be complete by early 2019. Construction is anticipated to start in 2020.
- The first phase of the work is anticipated to include structural repairs to the ramp, and demolition and replacement of the existing pier/platform structure.
- Amenities will be completed as part of the last phase of work and should be completed by the end of 2022. This project should be finished with or before the East Midtown Greenway.
- Community was concerned about security and requested:
 - Solar-powered phone at this location, as there is nothing in this area on the Esplanade.
 - Surveillance cameras on Phase IIA (the Pavilion above) and this phase (Phase IIB), as it can be desolate at night.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Community Board 8 looks forward to the next update on this project, we request at that time the planting materials be presented in more detail,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 strongly supports this detailed presentation of Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase IIB and recommends the City agencies move forward in an expeditious manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 strongly urges that solar-powered phone and surveillance cameras be incorporated into this project for security.

Approved: 3-0-0 Board Members (Yes Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider)

Approved: 1-0-0 Public Member (Yes J. Schneider)

We want to thank Morgan Jones, of NYC EDC, for putting this meeting together.

Barry Schneider, Chair 197-a Committee