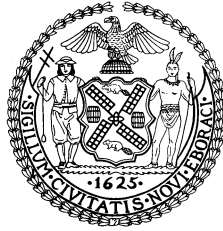


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
New York Blood Center Auditorium
November 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM

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

Community Board Members (Present): Craig Lader, Greg Kirschenbaum, Rita Popper, Tricia Shimamura

Community Board Public Members (Present): Irma Torres

Community Board Members (Excused): Alexandra Harrington, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Judy Schneider

1. Ferry Presentation by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and Hornblower New York.

Radhy Miranda and Franny Civitano of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Elena Ehrenberg of Hornblower New York gave a presentation on ferry ridership along the two routes in Community Board 8: the Astoria Route that stops at Roosevelt Island, and the Soundview Route that stops at 90th Street pier. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the community board website.

Ferry ridership and overall approval ratings has been consistently high. The presenters acknowledged ridership capacity issues (EDC has ordered additional, larger vessels for next year), but also reported that the ferry system has been running on-time 92% of the time, with the majority of AM and PM peak hour ridership consisting of commuters using the service to get to work or school.

The Soundview route receives 2,200 riders/day on weekdays, and 2,500 riders/day on weekends. The Astoria route receives 3,300 riders/day on weekdays, and 3,700 riders/day on weekends. The majority of the vessels carry 150 passengers, but additional 350 passenger vessels have been ordered for next year. EDC will start a pilot program at 3 locations with scan-tickets. EDC and Hornblower encouraged all to use the ferry app, which will relay information about potential route delays due to ice.

There is still a free shuttle bus service from the 34th Street ferry station, going as far north as 48th street and as far west as Madison Avenue. This service formerly went to 6th Avenue, but had to be reduced in order to maintain shuttle schedule.

Community residents and committee members made the following suggestions:

- Suggestion of using vessel trips to highlight local sights, businesses, and restaurants – Hornblower is actively promoting businesses and restaurants via their blog/website.
- Suggestion of pre-reserving seats - Hornblower expressed concerns about having empty seats for those who would pre-reserve a seat and not show up for the ride.
- Suggestion of gathering off-board data – currently EDC is only able to gather data on riders who get onboard. We do not currently have any way of measuring how many riders get off at each stop.
- Suggestion of announcing public transportation transfers at each ferry stop (such as nearby bus routes and subway lines) - EDC will consider this, but were wary of suggesting that a rider could transfer to another system without having to pay.
- Suggestions of creating a system for refunds through the ferry app. Currently, one must email help@ferry.nyc to receive a refund.

The following **RESOLUTION** was passed:

WHEREAS the New York City Ferry was created to compliment and expand the current transportation options for New York City commuters; and

WHEREAS the cost of one adult ferry ticket mirrors the cost of a bus or subway fare of \$2.75; and

WHEREAS riders are not able to transfer to a bus or subway without having to pay an additional \$2.75 for a bus or subway ride; and

WHEREAS senior citizens and persons with disabilities are offered reduced metro fare for single rides; and

WHEREAS senior citizens and persons with disabilities are not able to purchase reduced ferry fares for single rides;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 reiterates its request that the New York City Economic Development Corporation work with Hornblower New York and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to create a unified, single ticket system that allows riders to transfer between ferry, subway, and bus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 requests that the New York City Economic Development Corporation work with Hornblower New York to offer reduced single-ride ferry fares for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, in keeping with the reduced fares offered through the Metropolitan Transportation Authority subway and bus system.

Approved Board Members: 4-0-0 (Kirschenbaum, Lader, Popper, Shimamura)

Approved Public Members: 1-0-0 (Torres)

The following **RESOLUTION** was passed:

WHEREAS the New York City Ferry system currently operates the Astoria Route, including Roosevelt Island, from Astoria, Queens to Wall Street Pier 11; and

WHEREAS the New York City Ferry system currently operates the Soundview Route, including the 90th Street Pier, from Soundview in the Bronx to Wall Street Pier 11; and

WHEREAS there is no direct ferry route between East 90th Street and Roosevelt Island in Community Board 8 Manhattan; and

WHEREAS the New York City Economic Development Corporation is currently in the beginning stages of identifying possible new routes for a Phase 2 of citywide ferry service; therefore

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 requests that the New York City Economic Development Corporation consider extending an existing ferry route or create a new route to directly connect the East 90th Street and Roosevelt Island ferry stops.

Approved Board Members: 4-0-0 (Kirschenbaum, Lader, Popper, Shimamura)

Approved Public Members: 1-0-0 (Torres)

2. Update on seawall reconstruction at Carl Schurz Park – E. 88th Street – E. 90th Street

Erik Linsalata, the Deputy Director of Engineering at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) provided a brief update on the seawall reconstruction between 88th and 90th Street along the East River Esplanade. While repairing the southern-most segment of a lower wall that currently acts as a barrier to the upper wall of the esplanade at 89th street, Parks has determined that the structural integrity of the lower wall was far more deteriorated than originally thought. The lower wall therefore cannot be repaired as originally designed. Parks is currently conducting additional inspections to assess the needs of this segment of the esplanade. The length of time needed to complete the repairs, as well as the cost associated with the repairs, was not provided. Mr. Linsalata estimated that at most, these additional repairs could mean that this segment of the esplanade will remain closed from public access until the fall of 2019. He also noted that lengthy repairs could also result in the lack of more accessible and appropriate ADA ferry access until the fall of 2019.

Esplanade inspections will continue for the next 2 months, after which the Parks Department will have a better understanding of the work that needs to be done. The Committee expressed its deep concerns about losing this section of Carl Schurz Park and the East River Esplanade for another year, as well as the critical importance of providing clear communication about this development to the public. Ms. Shimamura asked Mr. Linsalata to return in December with a more comprehensive report on the construction, and committee members asked the Parks Department to consider possible mitigation items that could be provided to the public in lieu of losing this open space for potentially another year.

3. East Harlem Resiliency Presentation. (This item is laid over until December)

4. Parks and Recreation Committee name change proposal.

In reviewing the name and description of the Parks Committee (currently called "Parks and Recreation Committee"), committee members recognized that the committee's name does not fully encompass the broad range of issues we cover. Although the Waterfront Committee was combined with the Parks Committee in early 2018, committee members have maintained diligent focus on waterfront issues, including the East River Esplanade, ferry service (in partnership with Transportation), and concerns regarding recovery and resiliency along the waterfront. Committee members are proud of our advocacy on these waterfront issues, and firmly believe that continued

advocacy is needed, particularly with an eye towards making our community more resilient against future storms.

The following **RESOLUTION** was passed:

WHEREAS Community Board 8 Manhattan's Parks and Recreation Committee was combined with the Waterfront Committee in early 2018; and

WHEREAS the combined Parks and Recreation Committee continues to address issues related the waterfront in CB8 including the East River Esplanade, ferry service, and recovery and resiliency efforts; and

WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board 8 expects to continue to address waterfront topics in the future, particularly as it related to making our city more resilient against future storms;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Community Board 8 Manhattan's Parks and Recreation Committee will be renamed to the Parks and Waterfront Committee.

Approved Board Members: 4-0-0 (Kirschenbaum, Lader, Popper, Shimamura)

Approved Public Members: 1-0-0 (Torres)

5. Dog Forum Update

Ms. Shimamura provided a brief update on the CB8 dog forum. The forum is still planned for January (date TBD), from 6:30 PM– 9PM. Thus far, the panel discussion will consist of:

- Michael Dockett, Asst. Commissioner for the Urban Park Service (or Jessenia Aponte, Chief of Staff)
- Edwin Falcon, Director of Special Projects for Parks Enforcement Patrol
- Kolthida Johnson, Bureau of Vet & Pest Control, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Samantha Schmidt, Dog trainer and Lead Organizer for the Carl Schurz Halloween Howl resource fair

We will continue to work on confirming a date and location, as well as identify additional resources and agencies to attend.

6. Update from Wes Hamilton, Community District 8 Manager for Parks

Honey Locust Park: Parks recently held a pre-scoping meeting regarding this park. No additional information to report at this time, but Parks will come back in the future.

St. Catherine's Park: The asbestos has been removed and the water line is back on. Gas line issue remains, but Parks is working on this now. The sprinklers will be back and bathrooms are open now – they may have to be closed if it gets too cold and the gas issues are not fixed. Wes will continue to update the Committee on progress.

Last Movie Under the Stars: Due to previous inclement weather, Parks has rescheduled an outdoor movie showing in John Jay Park for November 18th. Please check the Parks website to confirm whether the movie will be shown (weather dependent).

There being no Old or New Business, the meeting was adjourned.

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