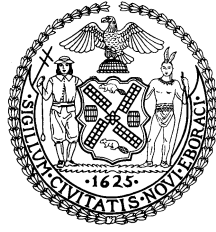


Alida Camp
Chair

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District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Transportation Committee**
Wednesday October 3, 2018, 6:30 PM
New York Blood Center - Auditorium

Minutes

Present: Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, Billy Freeland, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, Barry Schneider, Rita Popper, Cos Spagnoletti, Charles Warren, Peter Borock (public member), Jordan Wouk (public member), Judy Schneider (Public Member – Parks Committee)

Absent (Excused): David Menegon, Rebecca Lamorte, Tricia Shimamura

Absent (Unexcused): Sharon Pope

Resolutions for Approval:

***Item 1: Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the proposed design for an accessible ramp from East 82nd Street to John Finley Walk (Page 2)**

**unanimous*

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Item 1: Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the proposed design for an accessible ramp from East 82nd Street to John Finley Walk (*Joint Item with Parks Committee*)

Landscape architect Craig Church from NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation presented a proposed design for a new access ramp to the John Finley Walk section of the East River Esplanade at 82nd Street. An earlier design presented in May 2017 generated significant opposition and criticism, resulting in a new proposal that was brought to CB8 after working with buildings bordering the project site.

Ramp specifications:

- The top of the ramp will be 5'4" wide, but the ramp itself will be 3'6" in width, enough for one wheelchair. The ramp will be about 30 feet in length.
- The new design is narrower than the original design - this was done to control bikes when using the ramp. A landing rail at the end was incorporated into the design, which will prevent bicyclists from moving too fast as they exit the ramp. A drop curb will be installed near the base of the ramp to allow bikes to access East 82nd Street directly without having to use the sidewalk.
- There is a set of stairs that will prevent skateboarders from jumping off of the existing FDR Drive vent, and also will prevent vehicular intrusions from East 82nd Street onto John Finley Walk.
- A one foot planter will be installed, which One Gracie Terrace has agreed to maintain and ensure that it will be able to be drain. The planter will also help prevent loitering.
- The ramp materials will match those of John Finley Walk – asphalt hex pavers. The design incorporates a masonry wall, colored concrete landings, and a black steel pipe rail fence.

Mr. Church noted that garbage from neighboring buildings will have to be strategically placed to avoid the ramp from being blocked. Most of the ramp sits within the NYCDOT right-of way, which is enabling this project to move forward in conjunction with Esplanade improvements. The project is not likely to be constructed until 2020, due to procurement requirements and approvals required from the NYC Public Design Commission and NYCDOT. A Community Board resolution is required before it can be submitted to the Public Design Commission.

Mr. Church also noted that the Parks Department will return at future meetings to present designs for ADA accessibility at 83rd Street.

The following resolution was put forward by CB8:

WHEREAS NYC Parks Department presented to Community Board 8 a design for an ADA accessible ramp between East 82nd Street and John Finley Walk; and

WHEREAS ADA accessible ramps are required to connect John Finley Walk to intersecting streets; and

WHEREAS The Parks Department has worked closely with nearby residential buildings to develop a feasible and aesthetically acceptable design that is cohesive with the John Finley Walk; and

WHEREAS the project requires a Community Board resolution before being submitted to the NYC Public Design Commission,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Parks Department proposed design for an ADA accessible ramp between John Finley Walk and East 82nd Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 urges the Parks Department to expedite their efforts to receive all necessary approvals and complete completion the project ahead of the current two-year estimate.

Approved, 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention, 0 Not Voting for Cause; plus 3 Public Members voting Yes.

Yes (9+3): Birnbaum, Bores, Freeland, Lader, Mason, Popper, Schneider, Barry; Spagnoletti, Warren, Borouk (public member), Schneider, Judy (public member), Wouk (public member)

No (0): None

Item 2: Old and New Business

A member noted that the lights near the base of the East 81st Street Pedestrian Ramp has been out for 3 months, and inquired whether a bench can be installed on the ramp to provide relief for those users who find the length and slope challenging.

A member requested an update from NYCDOT on two prior Transportation Committee resolutions – a May 2018 resolution regarding changes to parking regulations on East 86th Street between Park Avenue and Madison Avenue, and a May 2017 resolution requesting parking regulation changes on East 88th Street between Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue by the Kennedy Public School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Warren & Craig Lader, Co-Chairs