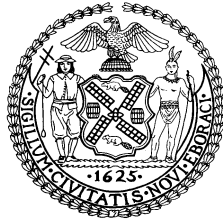


Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee Meeting
Hunter College West Building (SW Corner, East 68th Street & Lexington)
Room 714
January 10, 2019 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): Greg Kirschenbaum, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider

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

Community Board Members (Excused): Alexandra Harrington, Sophia James, Craig Lader, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Peggy Price

- 1. Presentation on proposed renovations to the southeast corner of John Jay Park by the Department of Parks and Recreation.** Present from the Parks Department were: Commissioner William Castro, Leslie Peoples, Tyler Parlato and Wes Hamilton.

Leslie Peoples did the presentation. The project now has a total of \$650,000.00 allotted to it with thanks to Councilmember Kallos for adding additional funds.

The entire area will have: new grey paving; 5 new flowering trees; the tree beds will be wider and have mulch; new plants and shrubs will be put in; new planting areas on the west side of the center seating to narrow the aisle; some benches will be turned toward the river and they now will have space between them so wheelchairs will have access and allow for small groups to gather. The major change is the exercise equipment will be removed except for the monkey bars, the parallel bars, and the existing safety surface—more can't be done in this area due to the OSHA laws. (See more below)

John Jay Park needs more funding to have a complete overhaul of other open space in the park, which is something the committee will work towards in the future.

During Q&A, the public raised the following: more picnic tables in that area; that the area be called John Jay Gardens—however other members of the public said that was not brought before the Community Board and the community for comment; suggested two of the center benches be backless so people could face either direction—particularly if they were part of a yoga class; Parks Department is getting away from using tree guards around the beds—there was much pro/con discussion on issue & Commissioner said a certain type of mesh fencing might be used; issue of signage saying “no dogs, no rollerblading/biking” was suggested—Commissioner said he would look into the dog issue; people said they thought this should be a passive area; trash cans and rodents are a problem—Commissioner said although costly, BigBelly™ cans with a foot pedal control would be installed. They are rodent proof and they email the Parks Department when the cans are full so they can be emptied.

Major discussion occurred on 2 items:

- A. The exercise equipment. Parks Department investigated placing it in another location in the park, such as the multi-purpose area. It was going to be too costly - a ramp would have to be built and there were not enough funds for this. The Commissioner promised he would look at other park areas in Community District 8 where adult exercise equipment could be installed.
- B. Dogs in this area. People have been attacked and bitten and dogs are often off leash. The Commissioner promised he would look into what are the current rules for John Jay Park and what changes could be made. He will get back to us on this issue. He said he would speak the next day with the PEP officers and ask for more early morning coverage in this park. It was suggested a sign be put up advising dog owners to go to Carl Schurz Park.

Schedule for the work to be done at the park is approximately: 4 months to finish design; 9 months for procurement; and construction 1 year is always allowed—but it could be less. We will continue to monitor the project.

Item 1: Unanimous Approval

RESOLUTION: The Parks Committee of CB8 approves the presentation by the Parks Department.

Approved Board Members: (5-0-0) Kirschenbaum, Popper, Rudder, Shimamura, Schneider

Approved Public Members: (2-0-0) J. Schneider, Torres

Item 2: Unanimous Approval

RESOLUTION: The Parks Committee of CB8 strongly urges the Parks Department to look into other parks in our CD #8 where adult exercise equipment could be placed.

Approved Board Members: (5-0-0) Kirschenbaum, Popper, Rudder, Shimamura, Schneider

Approved Public Members: (2-0-0) J. Schneider, Torres

2. Update on Planned Dog Forum for January 31st hosted by CB8 at the New York Blood Center

A draft flyer for the dog forum was handed out to everyone. The aim of the forum is to educate people on the rules and maybe change some of the bad actors. The panels will include: Deborah Zingale—Urban Park Service; Captain Edwin Falcon—Parks Enforcement Patrol; Kolthida Johnston & and an individual on dog licensing—Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In addition, the chairs have also invited some individual merchants from the community that provide pet services to answer any other questions that might arise.

3. Updates on other park issues:

- A. Tramway Park. A rather large hole has been dug. However, it seems to be consistent with where they are placing their elevator machine room. Parks Department will check whether the shaft will interfere with the utilities, but according to the plans it should not.
- B. Ruppert Park. \$100,000 has been designated for an irrigation system. Parks doesn't think a sprinkler system is feasible; it needs further consideration. The Commissioner would like to secure more funding to expand the playground area and make more of a difference in the park.
- C. Andrew Haswell Green Park Pavilion. The horticulture crews watered the lawn last summer with the water truck and, when necessary, will do so again this year.

4. Wesley Hamilton's Report, District 8 Parks Manager

Spoke about the Parks Inspection Program. The object is a comprehensive, outcome-based performance measurement system that generates frequent, random, and detailed inspections of our parks and playgrounds. Administered by the Operations and Management Planning (OMP) division, this program provides Parks & Recreation management, elected officials, and the public with a broad indicator of the condition of NYC parks. The program has been designed to reflect conditions encountered by the public when using Parks facilities. Inspections are performed by a team of trained inspectors using handheld computers and digital cameras to conduct approximately 6,000 inspections per year. Each site receives a rating of "Acceptable" or "Unacceptable" based upon the condition of specific park features.

The parks in our district had a **5% improvement** this year.

5. Old/New Business

Next month we plan to have a presentation by the Parks Department on an Esplanade Update at 89/90 Streets.