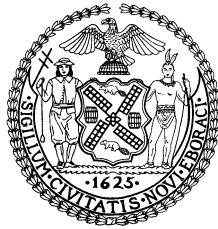


**Alida Camp**  
**Chair**

**Will Brightbill**  
**District Manager**



**505 Park Avenue, Suite 620**  
**New York, N.Y. 10022**  
**(212) 758-4340**  
**(212) 758-4616 (Fax)**  
**info@cb8m.com- E-Mail**  
**www.cb8m.com – Website**

**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Parks and Waterfront Committee**  
**92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, 1395 Lexington Avenue, Warburg Room**  
**March 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Billy Freedland, Greg Kirschenbaum, Craig Lader, Rita Poppa, Tricia Shimamura, M. Barry Schneider

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

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Alexandra Harrington, Barbara Rudder, Sofia James, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Peggy Price

- 1. Next Month's Parks and Waterfront Committee Meeting will change to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- 2. Presentation on Tree Pruning by Sam Bishop, Educational Director and Arborist of Trees New York**
  - Trees New York's mission is to plant, preserve and protect New York City's urban forest through education and community participation.
  - The Citizen Pruning course will be given at the Arsenal in Central Park.
  - The course starts on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and is 5 sessions—8 hours in the classroom and 4 hours in the field. The field outing is mandatory. The course is given again in the fall.
  - Upon successful completion of the final exam, students receive a license from Trees New York and NYC Parks Department to legally prune NYC street trees.
  - You must be 18 years of age to get your license which is good for 5 years. The cost is \$100.00. You can renew your license at no cost. There are a few scholarships, but they are based on zip codes and people in our district would not qualify.
  - There are two associations in the district active in pruning: the Carnegie Hill Neighbors and the East Sixties Neighborhood Association (ESNA). ESNA will reimburse course fee if people prune with them.
- 3. Continued Discussion of the East River Esplanade**
  - A press conference was held on the esplanade at Thomas Jefferson Park announcing that Mayor de Blasio has allocated \$75 million towards Esplanade restoration. It will be used at three locations:  
A) E. 104<sup>th</sup> to E. 117<sup>th</sup> Street B) E. 90<sup>th</sup> to E. 94<sup>th</sup> Street C) E. 62<sup>nd</sup> to E/ 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
  - Shelby Gardner, of Congresswoman Maloney's Office, and Councilmember Kallos said they were trying to arrange the next East River Esplanade Task Force meeting to be in the evening and open to the public. Shelby will get back to the committee co-chairs when he has more information.
  - Tricia asked Wes Hamilton (Parks) if he could provide the committee with a map that breaks down how the Mayor's money has been or will be spent at each location along the Esplanade.
  - Friends of the East River Esplanade has installed a bulletin board at 96<sup>th</sup> Street containing information. The Committee asked if Friends would post information about homeless services to the board.
  - Mary Nell Hawk made a presentation about East River Crew, which is a non-profit organization that operates from E. 96 Street and the river. Many people from the association were in attendance. This area has been closed off by caution tape due to the unsafe conditions. Wes Hamilton said Parks is looking into a location where they could move temporarily, until the area is rehabbed. Ms. Hawk stated that East River Crew does not charge for the use of the boats. She also said that they have a strict life-jacket policy. The question arose who

was going to pay for the move and could Parks do it. They are worried about their momentum if a location and move is not found soon. The Committee will follow this up next month.

- In 2011, a Federal study of the Esplanade which reported that there were many “truly scary” places along the length. That is when Councilmember Lappin and Congresswoman Maloney started focusing on the much-needed repairs. The Economic Development Corporation is currently doing a new study that is expected to be completed by the end of this year.
- There have been a lot of private partners doing repairs to the Esplanade such as: Rockefeller University, Hospital for Special Surgery, and the Brearley School. Memorial Sloan Kettering gave \$25 million to repair the piling at Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 2B.
- We hope to have a complete report on 88/90 Street at our April Meeting, but Parks is not sure about the timing.

#### **4. Ruppert Park Revised Signage presented by Wesley Hamilton, NYC Park Department**

- Wes took the message from last month’s meeting about no dogs allowed in the park and the Commissioner agreed to change the signage. Dogs will be allowed ONLY ON LEASH. There will be no dogs allowed in the playground area or any of the planted areas.
- Wes has ordered the new signs. Capt. Ed Falcon, Director of Operations, Park Enforcement Patrol will be notified of the changes and when the new signs will be installed.
- Discussion of putting in a dog run ensued and Wes gave the following reasons why this would not be a good location: A) the land is very slopped and it would make it difficult B) this is an urban area with many residents living around the park and the noise would be a big factor. C) the way the park is laid out now would not be conducive because a dog run requires a really large open space. Dog parks will be on a future agenda.
- Wes also mentioned they are looking at redoing all of Ruppert Park. This is something the co-chairs will follow up with Parks to get some sort of budget so we could work toward that goal. It was mentioned that Sahar Husain of Muslim Volunteers for New York, whose group does a lot to work in the park, last week awarded an OTTY by *Our Town* newspaper.

#### **5. Wesley Hamilton’s Updates on Other Parks in the District**

- 14 Honey Locust Park: Parks will be making a presentation at our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting on the new design, for community review.
- John Finley Walk/Carl Schurz Park: Parks is still working, and they have no completion date yet.
- Playground/Carl Schurz Park: Parks is expected to award the contract soon.
- John Jay Park-SE Corner: Parks expects the contract documents for the reconstruction of the southeast corner to be completed by July, at which time they will go out for bid. It was reported that a frequent user of the senior adult exercise equipment had been bitten twice by a dog. Wes was asked if he could have more PEP officers in the AM and if he would report this to the police.
- 24 Sycamores Park/Comfort Station and Upper Level: Parks is not sure if they will go ahead with the current bid. Will know more next month.
- St. Catherine’s Park: Parks has finished the filing with the Building Department; the water is ready to be turned on; electric has been repaired; they need to have Con Ed finish up and there will definitely be heat next winter.
- 66<sup>th</sup> Street GreenStreets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues: Parks expects to receive bids on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Tramway Park: Prince Shah of RIOC reported due to geotechnical issues on the site and having to go back to the drawing board for the foundation, unfortunately, our project has been delayed. Our current timeline is dependent on the approvals from the MTA and the DOB. Update next month.

#### **6. Continued Discussion of East 72<sup>nd</sup> Cul-de-sac**

- Greg Kirschenbaum reviewed his findings with the City and DOT. One East River Place/525 E. 72nd Street had an easement to build a foot bridge to the cul-de-sac, but the work was never done. They claim no responsibility for property. Parks has made it clear that is not their property.
- There are a group of people that have a vested interest in keeping the area nice and are interested in creating a “Friends of” group.
- The co-chairs will talk to DOT and see if there is not a solution with them and possibly a Memorandum of Understanding can be signed with Parks, since the community is interested in keeping up the space.

**Tricia Shimamura and M. Barry Schneider, Co-Chairs**