

Alida Camp  
Chair

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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Parks and Waterfront Committee**  
New York Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium  
June 6, 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):** Lowell Barton, Alida Camp, Paul Higgins, Greg Kirschenbaum, Craig Lader, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider, Marco Tamayo, Jack Zimmerman

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

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Sofia James, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Rita Poppa, Peggy Price

**Resolutions for Approval:**

**Item 1 – Honey Locust Park Presentation (Unanimous)**

**Items 2 and 3 – East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Overlook (Unanimous)**

**1. Honey Locust Park Presentation by Alex Kozar, Katherine Bridges, Leslie Peoples, Helen Greenan, NYC Parks Department**

- The name of the park is now officially Honey Locust Park. One new honey locust will be planted for a total of 8 honey locust trees plus the 3 in the Triangle. This property is owned by Department of Transportation (DOT) and maintained by the Parks Department, with a Department of Environmental Protection easement in the south east corner– jointly operated property (JOP)
- The Triangle with 3 trees will have a new concrete curb and will be extended to include the 1 piece of sidewalk. The area will be mulched around plantings.
- Parks expects completion of the project in 2021.
- The park has a totally new layout consisting of honey locust trees, new trees, plants, shrubs, mulch and some grass block pavers. The length of the park has been expanded 20 feet into DOT property going towards 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 6 feet of sidewalk space has been added to the south side of the park. There will be a granite block curb demarking the 2 planted areas. Each area will have a curved niche area for seating, as well as 2 seating areas facing each other along the aisle. The curved ramp will remain concrete.

- There will be concrete hex block pavers 20 feet deep from the bridge wall to the park area and the park area will be divided by about a 14-foot-wide aisle, also concrete hex pavers. This will allow for DOT access for periodic inspection and maintenance on the bridge.
- There will be benches, hi-lo bottle filler, a pedal-operated Big Belly trash container, job box storage for tools and a dog bag dispenser.
- Fencing around the planting was suggested.
- It was also suggested that the committee look into more open park space around the 59 and 60<sup>th</sup> sides of the bridge

**RESOLUTION 1:**

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 recommends that Parks Department look into fencing around the planted areas,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 supports the presentation made by the Parks Department for Honey Locust Park

**Approved Board Members:** 10-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Camp, Higgins, Kirschenbaum, Lader, Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider, Tamayo, Zimmerman)

**Approved Public Member:** 2-0-0 (Yes: Torres, J. Schneider)

**2. East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Overlook**

- After much discussion of the poor condition of the site, the following 2 resolutions were passed on the most needed issues:

**RESOLUTION 2:**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Transportation currently owns this location and is responsible for the upkeep, and

**WHEREAS** the extremely poor conditions of some of the cobblestones could cause a serious tripping hazard, and

**WHEREAS** the benches are splintered and in poor condition for sitting,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 strongly recommends that Department of Transportation repair the cobblestones and replace the benches as soon as possible, if not immediately.

**Approved Board Members:** 10-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Camp, Higgins, Kirschenbaum, Lader, Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider, Tamayo, Zimmerman)

**Approved Public Member:** 2-0-0 (Yes: Torres, J. Schneider)

**RESOLUTION 3:**

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 recommends the above repairs & replacements be made to the cobblestones and benches, and

**WHEREAS** there is already an active group of residents that is already looking after this area where possible, and

**WHEREAS** this piece of property is better suited to be designated as Park Land and

**BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 recommends that the Department of Transportation work with the Department of Parks & Recreation to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies to establish this as jointly operated property under Parks, as soon as possible.

**Approved Board Members:** 9-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Higgins, Kirschenbaum, Lader, Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider, Tamayo, Zimmerman)

**Approved Public Member:** 2-0-0 (Yes: Torres, J. Schneider)

### **3. Update on Tramway Plaza**

- With no update from RIOC on the new elevator project, Mr. Schneider reported the following: The East Midtown Partnership BID has always taken an out-sized interest in this tiny park, the only publicly-accessible green space in their district. When they noticed that the closed planting beds were starting to attract a great deal of trash and litter, they took action, and their Clean Patrol (via The Doe Fund) went to work. Within hours, Tramway Plaza was clean, and it's now a regular part of their cleaning cycle. Currently they have planted all the tree beds on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue with flowers. As soon as the Tram Station work is done, they will start work on the plaza's greenery.

### **4. Update on the District by Wes Hamilton, NYC Parks & Recreation District Manager**

- Music, kids' activities, ice cream by Friends of the East River Esplanade, June 8 at Andrew Haswell Green Pavilion, 1 to 4 pm
- Jazz Concert on Saturday, June 8 at Ruppert Park, 2 to 4 pm
- Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 8 at John Jay Park.
- Movie Under the Stars on Saturday, June 15 at Carl Schurz Park
- Jazz Concert on Friday, June 21 at Andrew Haswell Green Pavilion, 4 to 6 pm
- Summer Fun by Partnership for Parks on Friday, June 21 at Ruppert Park
- Movie Star Wars: The Last Jedi rescheduled for Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Catherine's Park at 7:30 pm.

### **5. Update on Temporary Relocation of East River Crew by Wesley Hamilton**

Wes said discussion is on-going and they are still looking into locations and will report at the next meeting.

### **6. Old/New Business**

- **July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Transportation Committee** will discuss **DeKovats Playground**, as it will be affected by the construction of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Ramp for the Sanitation Depot. Everyone is encouraged to come to this meeting.
- Ferry Overcrowding was brought up and that should be on the Transportation or the Parks agenda in the fall.

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