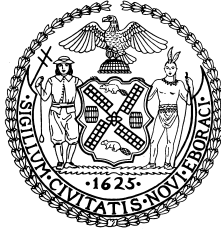


Alida Camp  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106  
(212) 758-4340  
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)  
www.cb8m.com - Website  
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Parks and Waterfront Committee**

New York Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium  
September 5, 2019 at 6:30 PM

**Community Board Members (Present):** Lowell Barton, Alida Camp, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Tricia Shimamura

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Irma Torres

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Greg Kirschenbaum, Barry Schneider, Barbara Rudder

**Community Board Public Members (Excused):** Judy Schneider

- 1. Proposal for a bike rental kiosk located at Central Park South and East Drive near the Grand Army Plaza entrance, Joy Gutierrez, Revenue Division of NYC Department of Parks and Recreation**
  - Bike Rent NY is a bike concessionaire that operates at Grand Army Plaza and Columbus Circle
  - The concessionaire has had temporary operating permits for the last 2 years.
  - Parks is now applying for approval from PDC for a kiosk to remain year-round.
  - Rental hours are from 8AM to dusk.
  - The proposed kiosk is 10' wide, 13' deep and made out of metal, and the bike racks in front of the kiosks are completely removal. The kiosk is also completely removal and has no advertising.
  - Every day the bikes are brought in and then brought back out – no bikes stay on site overnight.
  - Color will be 3 different colors of green to blend in with the trees surrounding the kiosk.
  - The concessionaire provides helmets and different sized bikes for rental, as well as hand-cycles for people of different abilities.
  - Board members brought up questions regarding safety and the percentage of fees that the City receives from this concessionaire.

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS** the existing bike rental concessionaire at Grand Army Plaza offers appropriately sized helmets and bikes to meet a wide range of sizes and abilities; and

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 has requested clarification from the New York City Parks Department on the safety measures of bike rental concessionaire, including whether bikes have headlights, blinking taillights, and safety rules of the road; and

**WHEREAS** further information has been requested as to the percentage of fees the City receives from the concessionaire;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 approves the concept of a bike rental kiosk located at Central Park South and East Drive near the Grand Army Plaza Entrance on the condition that the bikes have adequate safety features, including headlights, taillights and bells, and the concessionaire provides safety instructions to all riders.

**Approved Board Members:** 5-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Camp, Lader, Popper, Shimamura))

**Approved Public Member:** 1-0-0 (Yes: Torres)

## **2. Continued discussion of the East 72nd Street Overlook**

- In June 2019, CB8 passed a resolution calling for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair the cobblestones and replace the benches as soon as possible.
- CB8 also passed a resolution requesting a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) to establish the overlook as property overseen by the Parks Department.
- CM Ben Kallos' office also sent a letter of support to Parks and DOT.
- To date, CB8 has not received a response from either agency.
- Accord to Wes Hamilton, Parks would be resistant to addressing the safety issues due to the fact that it's DOT property.
- Barry and Tricia have reached out to both commissioners to further discuss this matter. Alida has also agreed to attend this meeting. We will continue to update the committee with any progress.
- Craig Lader has also suggested a joint letter between the Parks and Transportation committees to DOT calling attention to the most pressing safety concerns.

## **3. Update on East River Esplanade.**

- Recently Barry and Tricia attended an East River Esplanade taskforce meeting that was convened by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Council Member Ben Kallos
- Highlights from the meeting include:
  - o All works spots along the esplanade in CB8 are now elevated to "full reconstruction" or the highest level of repairs.
  - o 88-90<sup>th</sup> Street repairs will continue through the winter 2019 and will be completed in January/February 2020.
  - o 77<sup>th</sup> Street sinkhole is taped off, but Tricia requested that Parks employees revisit this area as it looked like some benches and planters were sinking further into the hole. Parks reports that this sinkhole and a few others along the esplanade will likely not be fixed until 2020/2021.
  - o Parks continues to meet with East River Crew about relocating them from the 96<sup>th</sup> Street launch (due to repairs needed at 96<sup>th</sup> Street) . Parks has not made a final decision about where to temporarily relocate the organization, and East River Crew has lost one season (April to October) of rowing due to losing their launch site. Tricia offered to reach out to Steve Simon to see about expediting a decision so that East River Crew might be able to move in the off-season.

## **4. Parks Department update by Wesley Hamilton, District Manager.**

- New carbon fiber backboards have been installed at John Jay Park
- Pools are closing on 9/7. Pool hours have been extended past Labor Day for the last two years.
- Parks is still receiving proposals for "It's My Park Day" projects until mid-September.
- Gracie Square Art Show is on 9/7 and 9/8
- Carl Schurz's "Movie Under the Stars" is on 9/21
- St. Catherine's Park Family Fun Day is on 9/7
- Dog bag dispensers have been installed at Ruppert Park, thanks to Friends of Ruppert Park funding
- A new planter has been installed at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street on the Esplanade, thanks to FERE.
- East River Crew has asked for a 5 gallon container of NYC Park green to paint their shipping container. Wes has offered to connect them with Ashley Greene from Parks.

## **5. Old Business**

- Updates on Tramway Plaza have been pushed back to next month's agenda.

## **6. New Business**

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