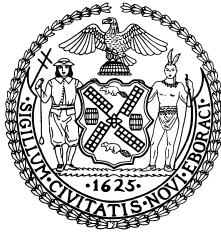


Alida Camp
Chair

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
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67th Street, Auditorium
January 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

MINUTES:

Community Board Members (Present): Lowell Barton, Greg Kirschenbaum Rita Popper, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider

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

Community Board Members (Excused): Sophia James, Craig Lader

1. 2020 – A review of the committee’s Activities in 2019

January: Discussion of John Jay Park and Upgrade of SE Corner – new exercise equipment and plantings starting in Spring 2020.

Dog Forum at the end of January. It was very successful. **Tonight:** Tricia & Barry said they would plan another one for this year.

February: Presentation on Artwork for East Midtown Greenway Project by EDC and Parks—Joint item with 197-A committee. Also discussed and approved unanimously was the Park Avenue Malls Temporary Artwork by Joseph La Piana.

March: Continues Discussion of the East River Esplanade. **Tonight,** Tricia acknowledged Meredith Ballew, Executive Director of Friends of the East River Esplanade, and asked her to make a presentation at a future meeting about all their events and projects on the Esplanade. Meredith said they were getting crowds of people at all their events on the Esplanade all the way up into East Harlem and that she looked forward to making a presentation to the Community Board.

April: We had a tribute to Henry Stern, former Parks Commissioner, also known as StarQuest (1935 - 2019).

Construction Update on East River Esplanade at E. 88 to E 90 Street. **Tonight,** Wes Hamilton of NYC Parks stated the work was mostly done except for some final landscaping. It is expected this area will be opened in the Spring when the landscaping has taken hold. There is now ADA accessibility to the ferry dock.

Discussion of East River Crew’s temporary location, which will be discussed at subsequent meetings.

Tonight: Wes said there was still no decision by the engineers if the davit could be moved to E. 94 Street or where it will be moved, and that Parks could not move the davit. We asked for the engineers to please look at the E. 94 Street location and advise if that is suitable. There may be another non-park solution for moving the davit, but the location must first be determined. This will be on the agenda next month.

Discussion of the East 72 Street Overlook and having a MOU between DOT and Parks to have it become Parks property. If DOT maintains control, they will remove benches in poor condition and asphalt over the space. Community Board 8 has written a letter asking for this MOU to both City Agencies, which the

elected officials signed on to. **Tonight:** Barry had spoken to the two commissioners today and is trying to establish a meeting with both. This will be on next month's agenda.

May: A formal Friends of Ruppert Park has been established and they will be working with the Muslim Women Volunteers. This park needs a complete renovation, which Parks Commissioner Castro favors. Assembly Member Dan Quart has said there may be some State money available for this. **Tonight:** Barry and Tricia said they would follow this up. Also, the February meeting would be devoted to Ruppert and the electeds would be invited.

Discussion of Rockefeller University Esplanade improvements from E. 64 to E. 68 Streets. They built a \$500 million laboratory facility to replace aging buildings. Rockefeller U. spent approximately \$15 million on seawall repairs and esplanade improvements and committed to maintain the landscaping of this section of the esplanade in perpetuity.

June: Parks Department made a presentation for Honey Locust Park—the name has changed due to the decline in the number of trees. The presentation was approved by the committee unanimously.

September: Central Park Conservancy brought a bike rental kiosk proposal to be located at Central Park South and East Drive near Grand Army Plaza Entrance. The committee approved the proposal unanimously.

October: Parks Committee met jointly with Women's & Families Committee for a report by Pam Elam, president of the non-profit group, Monumental Women, She presented a proposal for a statue in Central Park depicting three women's suffrage pioneers, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Sojourner Truth. A resolution in support was passed unanimously by both committees.

November: Parks Department presented a security infrastructure project for Carl Schurz Park. A unanimous resolution was passed in support by the committee.

An extensive presentation was made by the Central Park Conservancy on Re-envisioning the Pool and Rink on the Harlem Meer and completing the restoration of the North end of Central Park. A unanimous resolution was passed in support by the committee.

Report was given on Tramway Plaza replacement elevator project, which is supposed to start by the end of 2019 and expected to be complete by fall of 2020.

December: An update was given on the East Midtown Greenway project, as well as Andrew Haswell Green Phase IIB (AHG). AHG was 8 million dollars short and EDC came up with the funds and combined the construction of both of these projects with the same contractor, which resulted in a savings. This will allow AHG at the waterfront level to be complete with the Greenway project the end of 2022. AHG Phase III has conceptual drawing and now funds must be raised for construction.

Additional discussion items to the above:

CB 11: We have been reaching out for a joint meeting on the Esplanade, neighboring parks, and various items so far with no success.

Asphalt Green: Tricia & Barry met with Pedro Raicovich, Senior Director – Sports, on the Sundial Plaza area at E. 90 Street.

Tree are uprooting pavers which are in bad shape and there have been tripping accidents. They are planning a concrete deck over this area. They will come to us next month with a presentation for public input.

Con Ed has discovered a 10-foot sink hole near the FDR when they opened one of their manhole covers. Wes was asked to look into this and report back. This has caused Asphalt Green to move their generator to another location.

Queensboro Oval: Barry will look into getting statistics on the community usage under the new lease and report back next month.

2. **Wesley Hamilton with Parks Department Update**

It's My Park Day: Reminder it is not too early to apply permits for various park events.

Tree Replacement: At Stanley Isaacs was completed and the all the stumps removed.

24 Sycamores Park: Park is supposed to turn the key over to contractor to start work tomorrow.

John Jay Park: Playground renovations are moving along

3. Future Agendas:

Next Month:

Ruppert Park with Electeds,
Asphalt Green presentation of Sundial Plaza,
East River Crew new location,
72nd Street Cul-del-sac,
Tramway Plaza Update

Future Months:

Dog Forum,
Report by Meredith Ballew on Friends of East River Esplanade,
Continued follow up on Greenway & AHG Phase IIB & Phase III,
Joint presentation with Transportation on the ferry service in our CD
Report by Central Park Conservancy on Harlem Meer/Pool/Rink.

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