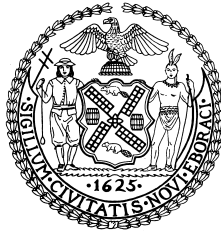


Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Via Zoom with Will Brightbill, District Manager Hosting
April 2, 2020 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.

Community Board Members (Present): Lowell Barton, Alida Camp, Sophia James, Craig Lader, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider, Marco Tamayo

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

Community Board Members Excused: Greg Kirschenbaum

Resolutions for Approval: Item 1 Unanimous

1. Central Park Conservancy Presentation on various parks projects, including: Conservancy Conservatory Garden (East 104-106 Streets), Dairy Access Path (65 Street, mid-park), Bendheim Playground (East 100 Street) and Park Perimeter (East 85 to 90 Streets) by Bob Rumsey and Grey Elam-Landscape Architects

Grey oriented us on a map where the various projects were located and then Bob made a presentation for the following:

A. Conservancy Conservatory Garden

- This has not had a major restoration since 1936 when constructed. Project will not focus on horticulture, which is in good condition.
- The focus of the restoration is on paving and accessibility and will require minor design changes. The “in-kind” work will include paving, retaining walls, curbs, re-piping, electricity, drainage repair and the pergola.
- The concrete paving will be replaced with the original bluestone.
- The French Garden has four sets of stairs, all four of which will be replaced with ADA ramps and handrails.
- Project cost is about 10 million dollars and is expected to start in the fall and be completed in 2 years.

B. Dairy Access Path

- Restore and realign crosswalk with a 5-foot wide ADA accessible ramp next to footpath.
- The loggia paving will be restored to its original brick herringbone pattern, retaining and restoring the bluestone banding.
- Project cost is about one million dollars and is expected to start summer/early fall.

The following **RESOLUTION** was passed on the above two items:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 approves the presentation by the Central Park Conservancy on The Conservancy Conservatory Garden and Dairy Access Path.

Approved Board Members: 10-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Camp, James, Lader, Pope-Marshall, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider, Shimamura, Tamayo)

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

Bob Continued with the following two items that were an update, with no vote needed.

C. Bendheim Playground

- The standards have changed since 1990 and it is no longer ADA accessible.
- Swings, water feature, sand box stay the same. The balance will be replaced with “in kind” features, as will the asphalt and safety surface.
- The footprint remains the same. The fence height will be lowered from 6 feet to 4 feet 6 inches.
- Project cost is upwards of one million and is expected to start late summer/early fall.

D. Park Perimeter from East 85 to 90 Streets (eventually they will go to the top of the park)

- Restore the existing concrete curbs, hex pavers and replace with smooth granite at benches and bus stops to provide improved accessibility.
- It will take 9 months to a year for work to be complete. This work will be done in phases and barriers will be used to make a walk lane while work is ongoing.
- Project cost is three million and is expected to start (depending on the Governor) middle of this year.

2. **Updates from West Hamilton of the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation.**

- Wes started his comments by saying everything he was reporting could change tomorrow--all very fluid.
- All playgrounds closed and basketball rims removed and stored in the park houses, where possible.
- PEP Officers and Police are enforcing the 6-foot social-distancing and requested you call the police if you see any large-scale activities.
- Closed are: Seabury Playground and Basketball field; DeKovats Playground; Ruppert Park and Playground; 24 Sycamores Park; St. Catherine's Playground and ball field – ball field will be used as parking lot for NY-Presbyterian staff;
- Partially closed are: Stanley Isaacs Southern portion/Northern portion open; Asphalt Green only soccer field is open for walking and social distancing; Carl Schurz Catbird Playground closed, balance opened; John Jay the handball and seating areas are open.
- 82 Street ramp to John Finely Walk is complete and open.
- Capital projects are fluid, bid to contractors on hold such as Honey Locust Park; 24 Sycamores has stopped but the asbestos removal part of the project is complete.
- Then a long general discussion occurred with Wes, Tricia and Barry fielding questions.

3. **Updates**

- Sahar and Mubeen gave updates on Ruppert Park - the 2 events scheduled were now postponed until June, if permitted.
- Meredith Ballew, from Friends of the East River Esplanade, said their annual gala and events at the Andrew Haswell Green Pavilion are postponed. She encouraged everyone to look at their website: esplanadefriends.org and to sign up for their newsletter.

*****NOTE: Please practice responsible social distancing of at least 6 feet in all public spaces, including our parks and open space.*****

There being other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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