

Alida Camp
Chair

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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
June 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Takako Kono, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider, Marco Tamayo, Jack Zimmerman

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

1. Presentation by NYC Parks Department for “Replacement in Kind” work at St. Catherine’s Park by Christopher Crowley, Ricardo Hinkle, Leslie Peoples, Steve Simon

Chris Crowley and Ricardo Hinkle presented the work for the eastern portion of the playground, which is half an acre. Cost is \$590,000, which was funded by Council Member Kallos over a number of years. The major items that needed repair or changing are:

- Current safety zone in swing area does not meet CPSC guidelines. The swings will be reduced from 8'-0" high to 7'-0" to comply with regulations. The current design shows three bays of swings, including one ADA swing, which is reduced from the existing four bays. Parks is working with a manufacture to develop a four-bay swing in compliance with existing swing area. The new swings will match in color and style of the existing play units. Pavement under swings may be settling in this area raised during the last construction 20 years ago. This may add complication to the project.
- Safety surface under the 2- to 5-year old climbing equipment and sand box area. The two slides entering the sandbox will be looked at by Parks if they can be rotated to a new position away from entering the sand, as per the community’s request, otherwise a bump out maybe necessary.
- Safety surface under the 5- to 12-year old climbing equipment. All safety surface will be replaced in-kind, with grey highlight to match paving pattern and help reduce heat.
- If there is sufficient funding, the spray shower area concrete paving between the climbing equipment will be replaced with the same color pattern.
- Two missing trees will be replaced on either side of the spray shower area. There is a possibility some more trees might have to be replaced. The planting seasons are in April and November.
- Project will go out to bid in the Spring with a construction start up in early Summer (June) 2021 and a finish late fall (December) 2021.
- Q & A.
 - ✓ Western part of the park open and hope to keep portions of the eastern part open during work. Work area will be fenced in. No staging in the street.
 - ✓ No Improvements to the comfort station.
 - ✓ Cleanliness of the sand box, which is cleaned/raked on a regular basis by Janice at St. Catherine’s Park. Bring up the general subject with the borough office.
 - ✓ What are sources of money for repair of parks?

- ✓ Why can't fencing be removed from the park. This is an initiative of Commissioner Silver. However, swings must be fenced for safety.
- ✓ One member of the public expressed desire not to have sand boxes and have more swings instead.
- ✓ One Committee Member requested that Parks look into rotating the playground slide so that it does not force children to slide into the sandbox.

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

- Maintenance crews are preparing for the openings and they will be ready when announced to spring into action.
- Carl Schurz: Protesting; remove garbage cans for safety and bathrooms closed. Cat Bird construction on schedule.
- All events cancelled through June 30th by the Park Department.
- All playgrounds remain closed and ALL basketball rims removed and stored in park house, where possible.
- Q & A
 - ✓ No information on pools and opening date—this item is in a state of flux with the City.
 - ✓ Check on the maintenance of John Jay and the sand box when it opens.
 - ✓ John Jay sitting area/exercise area waiting to hear when the contract can start. Members of the community inquired about not starting the work until the gyms reopen. This area is busy all day and evening. Also, Personal Trainers are using this area and if they are charging fees it is absolutely not permitted. It will be checked on by Parks.
 - ✓ Parks and City looking at spray showers and when they can be turned on.
 - ✓ Chain separating people from the FDR and the esplanade at 74/75 Streets—is there a better way to handle this situation? Parks will look at it and talk to DOT. The area needs to be better and more safely secured because of the car traffic. Steve Simon said maybe it could be included in the HSS project during their restoration.
 - ✓ Dog Parks and Playgrounds — there has been no word when they will open. This is a Public Health issue and it is not this committee's purview.
 - ✓ What is the procedure for raising money to get a park redone? Council Member Kallos has given \$500,000 for Ruppert park according to Rita Popper. Parks said they had no record of that money. This will be on the July meeting agenda and the Council Member will be invited.

3. Update on Tramway Plaza by RIO from Terrance McNally

Commented [JS1]:

- Tram Elevator project was deemed an essential construction project during the NY PAUSE. Since our last update, the pile work and foundation work is complete. Electrical and concrete curb work is on-going. We will begin to install sidewalk shed by mid-June and begin structural steel install. The overall project schedule was affected due to steel and glass fabrication COVID-19 related shop closures, we will be able to assess impacts once all fabricators are back to work.
- Tram Elevator 20% complete. Scheduled completion date – March 25, 2021, may be extended by 2 months due to COVID-19. There being no Old or New business, the meeting was adjourned.

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