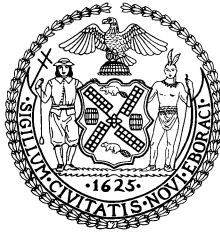


Alida Camp, Chair

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  
September 10, 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.*

**Minutes:**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Lowell Barton, Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Brian Correa, Felice Farber, Billy Freeland, Takako Kono, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Elizabeth Rose, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider, Marco Tamayo, Jack Zimmerman

**Community Board Members Excused:** Pope-Marshall

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

**Resolutions for Approval:**

**Item 1:** Reconstruction of the East River Esplanade (Unanimous)

**Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.**

**1. Report on Repair/Reconstruction of East River Esplanade at E. 76/77 Streets by:** Terrance McCormick-Director of Engineering, Gabrielle Czernik-Project Manager, and Vesna Hadzibabic -all from the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation.

- Terrance McCormick gave a slide presentation and spoke about the Sinkhole and Seawall Collapse at the East River Esplanade that occurred on July 20, 2020.
- Barricades were put up to close the through passage north and south from 76 to 74 streets.
- Parks was in the final stages of a procurement of a city-wide retaining wall contract. Therefore, they were able to mobilize a contractor to excavate and remove debris. They put in place security measures to prevent further loss of back fill that could possibly affect the FDR. They were also able to use design consultants to do underwater dives to identify damage to the foundation.
- This retaining wall contract is land based, as opposed to sea based. Therefore, they will be able to provide a 17-foot-wide paved asphalt path by the end of 2020. The balance of the area will be fenced off.
- Full restoration: Currently Parks is in the final stages of design contract for Phase 2 & 3 and the E. 76/E. 77 work will be included in this Phase. This work will be done from the water side and should have minimal impact on the 17-foot path. When this phase is complete, it will include the entire 22-foot-wide section and all new pavers will be installed. This work was estimated to cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million. Also, the completion of this work will need to be coordinated with Hospital for Special Surgery. There is a larger city-wide contract for retaining walls that will also cover part of this cost.
- Q & A and Discussion occurred next.
  - Passage on Esplanade can continue by use of the pedestrian foot bridges at 78 and 71 Streets.

- Parks is working with State and City DOT on their plan for the repair and access for necessary trucks and DOT is in favor of these repairs. There is also a pull off on FDR at this location for cars, which should be helpful when doing repairs.
- Causes of collapse of the sea wall was due to: the wake from additional ferries and boats, as well as storms such as hurricane Sandy; Missing fascia stones; Wall not properly joined by concrete plug, which came out; all of these believed to cause the failure. (Note: the East River is a tidal estuary and changes its direction of flow frequently, and is subject to strong fluctuations in its current.)
- Wes Hamilton said Parks is checking topside surfaces weekly. People want to see more permanent barricades/fencing where there is a problem. Parks is working on this. People want Parks to be more pro-active.
- Parks should check the condition of the retaining walls more frequently so money can be allocated in the City Budget.
- Environmental impacts need to be studied and procedures put in place.
- The Esplanade needs to be studied from CD8 all the way north.
- Community Board 8 would like to get copies of all the reports that have been completed by Parks on the Esplanade and the Seawall for our district.
- Everyone commented that it was a miracle no one was injured or killed. There are other places along the Esplanade where there are holes or cracks. A meeting of a broader Esplanade discussion and condition of the seawall is needed with **ALL** our elected officials.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** in light of the recent collapse of the East River Esplanade at 76-74<sup>th</sup> Street, and

**WHEREAS** the two most recent major collapses, including at 89<sup>th</sup> Street at Gracie Mansion, have taken place between seawall inspection periods; and

**WHEREAS** there are several other areas of the East River Esplanade showing potential structural concerns;

**BE IT RESOLVED** CB8 requests an immediate inspection of the entire East River Esplanade from 60<sup>h</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup> Street to ensure the safety of all Esplanade users and to avoid any further emergency collapses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** all engineering reports with previous assessments of the Esplanade and seawall should be submitted to Community Board 8, to be compared with a current report.

**The Vote:**

**Board members 15 – 0 – 0**

**Public Members 2 – 0 – 0**

**Approved Board Members:** 15-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Bores, Camp, Corriea, Farber, Freeland, Kono, Lader, Popper, Rose, Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider, Tamayo, Zimmerman)

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

**2. Report on Community District 8 by Wesley Hamilton-District Manager, NYC Department of Park & Recreation.**

- Honey Locust design complete, ready for bid. A many Parks Dept. projects are being held by OMB before they can go out to bid.
- St. Catherine's almost finished with design, anticipate to go out for bid in November, depends on OMB when it goes out to bid.

- 24 Sycamores Park – work has started again and is 32 % complete. Aiming for a May/June completion 2021.
- Recently opened permits for youth sports, approving some permits for small gatherings such as birthday parties. Not entertaining events that will bring large groups.
- Stanley Isaacs – shops repaired all the lights.
- New signs ordered for Ruppert Park – “No dogs on the Lawn” “Keep Dogs out of Unauthorized Areas”, as they keep getting removed.
- Park usage is up. Trying to accommodate with less staff. No Seasonal staff this summer.

#### Q&A and Discussion:

- Muslim Volunteers had a difficult time getting rakes, brooms, and larger cleaning supplies. Wes said he would work with them and Partnership for Parks. Another cleanup is scheduled for the fall. Rakes were the most needed item. Parks is having difficulty with reduced staff delivering tools.
- Parks on RI are under whose jurisdiction? Some are NYC Parks would be serviced by Queens Division of the Parks Dept.
- Tricia thanked Wes for quick response on Sunday of Labor Day weekend for graffiti removal in Carl Schurz Park. The graffiti said “Trump 2020” “Make America Great Again”. Tricia reached out to Wes and by 10 am Parks was working on removal. The neighbors were shocked on how quickly Parks reacted. Everyone was very grateful.

### 3. Updates

- Tramway Park  
The Tram Elevator project was deemed an essential construction project during the NY PAUSE. Since our last update, the piling work, foundation work, steel erection and concrete deck pours are complete. They are currently working on welding clips for the elevator mechanism and working on the electric and plumbing runs. The next large move from a visual perspective will be wrapping the structure for fire barrier paint. They will begin installing the first elevator later in the fall. The contractor continues to keep the site clean and safe. They have an exterminator program in place. They were recently notified about a rat issue outside the site, so they have asked the contractor to double the rat baits and call for an exterminator beyond their regular visits, if needed. As of now, the project is expected to complete in Spring 2021.
- East Midtown Greenway/AHG Park Phase 2B  
Wil Fisher, of the EDC, said the project is able to restart construction. They are currently working on a new schedule and will update us as soon as they can. This is really great news, since quite a few other projects are still on hold.
- Tricia participated in the Clean Up event for Ruppert Park with the Muslim Volunteers, a group of 10 people. Filled about 10 bags of garbage. Would have been better with rakes. They will do another clean up in the fall. Tricia will email dates to the committee members.
- October Agenda will cover equity in our parks.

There being no other Old or New business, the meeting was adjourned.

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