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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
March 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Via Zoom**

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, Brian Correia, Felice Farber, Takako Kono, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura

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

Resolutions for Approval:

- Item 1 Central Park – Unanimous

1. Updated Presentation by Central Park Conservancy on the Re-envisioning the Pool/Rink and the Harlem Meer by Lane Addonizio, Christopher Nolan, and Susan Rodriguez, Design Architect

- Project is scheduled to start late spring/summer 2021 and to complete for the pool season 2024.
- **Lane** Introduced the project which we heard in the fall of 2019. Since that time, they have been working on the technical aspects, permitting, regulatory review, and further aspects of development.
- **Chris** then went on to talk about significant design developments since the Lasker pool/rink was built in the 1960s. Many areas of the North End have already been restored and this project is to complete that work.
- They have reworked the design, removing the service drop-off and elevator from the Drive to improve the continuous landscape character across the roof of the building and create accessible circulation to the overlook at Nutter's Battery (service to the building will be from the lower elevation/pool deck level). The island in the Meer remains the same. Portions of the existing path will become the boardwalk, instead of a boardwalk in the meer. The pergola remains entirely on the land now.
- The retaining wall and fill from the 1940s will be removed, increasing the footprint of the Meer, and bringing the water to the edge of the rock outcropping, and a portion of the existing path will be replaced by boardwalk with a walking surface of steel grating faced with a wood edge, which will go in and out over the water where there will be aquatic plantings. There will be a transparent black stainless-steel railing and wire mesh at the edge of the boardwalk. The area will have lights.
- There will be significant tree removal —51 in total— in order to remove the existing facility and restore the site. The Conservancy has already begun to replant trees. 130 new canopy trees will be planted.
- When the existing facility was built in 1966, the area was 40% Landscape/60% hardscape. Now it will be 60% Landscape/ 40 % hardscape.

- **Susie** then focused on the facility design itself during the different seasons of the year.
- A zero-entry (sloped) access into the pool at the south end will allow people to wade in but will not affect the lap lanes.
- The facility is being redone with natural materials, including the natural green materials on the roof where you can overlook the pool. The roof allows for shade from the sun. There are locker rooms and rest rooms.
- Fixtures installed around the edge of the pool allow for lap swimming lanes in a variety of configurations. There are many more lanes now than before, depending on how it is set up.
- Pool edge is flush with the water. The new pool will be 75% of the existing pool. At the northern end you will be able to do sunbathing, and there will be lounge chairs around the deck.
- Everything is free except for the use of the ice rink.
- Ice rink is regulation size rink. It will be built on a wood platform over the pool.
- A snack concession in the building will also have a window to the outside.
- Highly efficient LED Fixtures are used throughout the project.
- A synthetic surface will be placed over the pool/rink during intermediate season, so it will be a multi-use intermediate space.
- During the 3-year construction period, part of the loop drive will be used, and it will go down to 2 lanes.
- The Conservancy is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation on alternative sites for the groups that use the rink while the construction occurs.





Resolution:

BE It RESOLVED Community Board 8M approves the updated presentation of the Central Park Conservancy on this project: Pool/Rink and Harlem Meer

Approved Board Members: 9-0-0 (Yes: Barton, Correia, Farber, Kono, Lader, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider, Shimamura)

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

2. Updates from Friends of the East River Esplanade by Stacy Papas

- Thank you for signing on to the East River Coalition with letter to the Mayor thanking him for the \$284 million for the Esplanade. The letter showed support from 25 organizations, electeds, and CB 8 and 11.

- Submitted a letter for Friday's NYC budget meeting on Parks for the Esplanade.
 - Jane's walk, which will be a virtual zoom walk led by Jennifer. Scheduled for May 3 thru the 9.
 - We are working with NYC Ferry in Astoria on a cross river event. Promoting each side to come to the other side to see what is going on. Scheduled for June 12/rain date June 13.
 - Working on getting 2 Big Belly Trash cans. They may be placed in the southern portion of the Esplanade, sponsored by Friends and private donations. Working on this with Wes. Parks Department will be responsible for emptying these trash cans.
 - Planting has been wonderful over the past year.
 - Someone is feeding the birds. Issue in many parks. There are rules but it is a challenge to enforce according to Wes. Maybe have someone from the Urban Wildlife Department come speak to us.
3. **Presentation of a Temporary Public Art Installation in Carl Schurz Park** by Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator Park Department and Joanne Howard, Artist.
- **Elizabeth** spoke about the exhibit called Apple Heads that will consist of cast apple heads that have been carved and dried. They be cast brass and have tension screws inside to hold them to the fence. They are about 3 inches in size. There will be no damage to the fence from the screws. Unobtrusive.
 - There will be 30 to 40 of them at the Hoop Garden 10 different types. There will be signage available.
 - The artist is responsible for the artwork maintenance or if they become damaged/vandalized.
 - **Joanne** thinks of them as little guardians of nature. They are whimsical. They will be there from April to late fall. She wanted to Focus on the entrance in the park.
 - This could be an "**Aha**" moment.
4. **Update from Park Department by Wes Hamilton, District Manager and Q & A**
- The Capital projects: 24 Sycamores is at 70 percent completion and is expected to be completed in August 2021.
 - In procurement: St. Catherine's Park and John Jay Park and Honey Locust Park. Procurement means it is already designed, gone through the legal phase and is now going out for bid. The next phase it is to be awarded and then construction starts. See: NYC Parks Capital Tracker for more information.
 - Carl Schurz security measures is still in the design phase
 - PERMITS: accepting permits at 50 people, but also accepting permits for later in the year for larger events in the fall depending on Covid.
 - The staff worked really hard on snow removal.
 - Planning volunteer projects, as Its My Park Day, permits needed. There are safety protocols. This for the spring and summer.
 - Now anticipating increased garbage with the warm weather. Please advise if there is a problem.
 - Handrail totally detached at E. 81st Street on the Esplanade. Someone from Shops was hoping to get to it today and they were not able. Wes will keep following up with Shops until it is complete. He believed that the DOT installed the handrail only a year ago, it was felt this was the quickest way to get it repaired.
 - Question about bathrooms being open in Central Park. Wes will look into it.
 - A long discussion on Ruppert Park and need for a meeting dedicated to the park. Chairs will discuss.
 - St. Catherine's Park and the shadow projected to be caused by the proposed NY Blood Center project and do not know how the Community Board will handle this project. Will advise once ULURP starts.

- Trying to Schedule a meeting with CB 11 sometime in April.

REMINDER: The Next Park & Waterfront meeting will be April 8th.

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

Tricia Shimamura and Barry Schneider
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee
Barry Schneider, Chair 197-a Committee
Judith Schneider, Scribe