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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
Thursday, June 10, 2021 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

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 2 – Restoration of the Croquet Greens in Central Park

Community Board Members Present: Lowell Barton, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura,

Community Board Public Members Present: Judy Schneider

Community Board Members Excused: Felice Farber, Takako Kono

Community Board Public Members Excused: Irma Torres

1. The Departments of Parks and Recreation and Transportation presented information on a project to rehabilitate the FDR Promenade between East 81st and 90th Streets. (Joint Item with the Transportation Committee) Presentation by:
 - a. NYC DOT Representatives: Jennifer Sta. Ines, Hui Yang, Joannene Kidder, Colleen Chattergoon
 - b. Representatives from Design Consultant Hardesty & Hanover: Bill Nyman, Mary Mazur NYC
 - c. DPR Representatives: Steve Simon and Wes Hamilton
- Today (June 10, 2021) there was an announcement of the \$80 Million funding of this project by Congress Woman Carolyn Maloney. She and Councilmember Kallos have been working on this for 6 years.
- The project will be under DOT management in conjunction with the Parks Department.
- Bill Nyman said the project consists of the Promenade and the some elements of the roadway below.
- He stated that the main challenges to the residents and public would be: to the nearby residents; noise; dust; maintaining access; and working behind Gracie Mansion.
- Further, they would correct the deterioration of the walkway with replacement of structural joints and all pavers so the surface will be level; waterproofing; drainage; replace 1939 World's Fair benches in kind; and replace existing fencing to be 4'6" for the protection of bikers; new lighting that would not shine in residences.
- On roadways—repairs had been made in 1939 and 1985. Now deterioration of the walls and girders; leakage of the joints; icicles in the winter falling on cars; and expansion joints must all be repaired.
- There will be limited working hours at night with lane closures.
- Two existing transverse fences in bad condition will be removed.
- Some planned mitigation: sound blankets; use of small equipment for less noise; wetting techniques to control dust.
- At the moment, the work is planned in 4 phases - this could change. Starting with the 81st Street segment first.

- Schedule: Final Design Phase completed by December 2021; Bid Opening 2023; Begin Construction 2024; Anticipated Completion in June 2027.
- Q&A
 - 81st Street bridge not ADA. They will review with Parks make it part of the project as appropriate after consultation with Parks.
 - The Brearley School structure is owned by DCAS City Agency under a lease with Brearley. It was decided in 2019 not to do the work so that it would not have to be redone. In 2020 pandemic closed in school learning. Final determination on structure TBD
 - DOT would come back by the end of the year or beginning of next year when they have an update on the project.

2. **Presentation on the restoration of the croquet greens in Central Park** Presentation by:

New York Croquet Club: Louise Bozorth

New York Lawn Bowling Club: Barry Kessler

- They are approaching their 100th Anniversary in 2026.
- Their goals are to restore Mineral Springs by rebuilding the original Moorish Style building designed by Calvert Vaux; restore a firm playable surface that ensures accuracy and skill rather than strength for both lawn bowling and croquet.
- The following resolution was made:

WHEREAS the New York Lawn Bowling Club is approaching its 100th anniversary in 2026; and

WHEREAS the current state of the bowling lawns in Central Park are uneven, patchy, and nonfunctional for lawn sports; and

WHEREAS the original characteristics of the Moorish Style Mineral Springs building have been lost in its current form; and

WHEREAS there is a need for more restrooms at the current Mineral Springs building; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 supports the historical restoration of the Mineral Springs building and urges the Central Park Conservancy and New York City Parks and Recreation Department to restore the lawn to pristine conditions for bowling, croquet, and other lawn activities.

Approved Board Members: 6-0-0 (Barton, Lader, Popper, Rudder, Schneider, Shimamura)

Approve Public Member: 1-0-0 (Judy Schneider)

3. **Update from the NYC Parks Department by Wes Hamilton, District Manager**

- Park permits and usage is way up.
- Pools open June 26.
- Special Events, as of today, have a 500-person capacity. There is a 2-hour sound limit on permits.
- Parks has had many successful volunteer projects.
- Construction work in parks:
 - 24 Sycamores Park is schedule to complete in August.
 - John Jay Park seating area will start work after the pool season is over, in September.
 - Andrew Haswell Green is on schedule
 - Construction has started on Esplanade between 68 & 71 Street.
- Q&A
 - Water fountain in John Jay Park overflowing badly and Wes was good about getting it repaired quickly on a Sunday. There still maybe some parts needed for a permanent fix. Please keep an eye on it and advise if there are continuing problems.
 - No hours for adult swim or pool capacity have been decided by the City as of today.

- Construction on the Esplanade at 69 Street is too narrow an area to allow for pedestrian passage while work is being done.
- Motorized bikes on the Esplanade are a problem. Wes said they are working with PEP Officers and NYPD to try and handle the problem.

There being no other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned.

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