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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Parks and Waterfront Committee  
Joint with 197a Committee**

Via Zoom with Will Brightbill, District Manager Hosting  
April 14, 2022

*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:** Felice Farber, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider

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

**Community Board Member Excused:** Lowell Barton, Sharon Pope-Marshall

**Resolutions for Approval:**

Item 2: Fitness Equipment Unanimous Approval

**MINUTES:**

1. Please note next month's meeting date has been changed to **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**.
2. **Fitness Equipment to be placed underneath the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge on the Esplanade by Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) Presentation by: Andy Moore of Quinnell Rothschild & Partners, Melissa Kiefer and Reesa Kaufman of HSS, and Leslie Peoples & Steve Simon of the Parks Department.**
  - Mr Moore had discussions with Friends of the East River Esplanade, HSS and the Parks Department on this project.
  - Mr. Moore reviewed the prior presentation of the space from 72 to 78 Streets and presented a revised schematic plan for an Adult Fitness Area. At 78<sup>th</sup> Street there is a ramp going over the FDR and the exercise equipment will be placed under the ramp. This location gives the equipment some shelter, shade, and protection from the rain. This separates the exercisers from the main path and provides for their safety.
  - HSS plans to install equipment made by KOMPAN, a company approved by the Parks Department. There will be blue and grey safety surface tiles placed below the equipment. HSS will provide the Parks Dept with additional safety surface tiles to allow for future restoration or repairs in the area as needed.
  - The equipment will consist of: Pull ups for resistance bands; Vertical Chest Press (ADA); Pull Up Bars 6 & 8 feet tall (ADA); Parallel Bars; Arm Bike; Sit up Bench; and steps 16" & 24".
  - There will be a drinking fountain.
  - There will be chain link fence 6 & 8 feet high to protect the equipment.
  - Q&A:
    - Concerns were expressed about the amount of lighting in the Fitness Area and making sure there is sufficient lighting to ensure a safe environment. Mr. Moore noted that there is light from both sides while using the equipment. The architect will look at the lights and make sure they are well placed for the evening.

- Questions were raised about the Chain Link Fence behind the Fitness Area and whether something more attractive than a chain link fence could be installed. Mr. Moore and Ms. Peoples noted that the area is too narrow at that location for a different kind of fence noting that 3' is needed for a planting bed or a wall.
- Signage—standard Park signage will be posted and will include pets. Dogs must be on leash. Signage will be provided by the manufacturer about equipment.
- Concerns were raised about safety in the area. Cameras should be maintained by NYPD. HSS contractor will install the necessary conduit so when they are ready, the cameras can be easily installed, and nothing has to be torn apart.
- Mr. Moore will speak with Parks about equipment. Parks has an ADA Coordinator that reviews all equipment. It must be kept in mind choice is constrained by the size of the area. If there are specific suggestions for specific pieces, they can be sent to the CB Office, and it will be forwarded to Parks for their review.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** the Community Board has requested on numerous occasions that exercise equipment be installed on the East River Esplanade, and

**WHEREAS** the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) has committed to improving the East River Esplanade from 72<sup>nd</sup> to 78<sup>th</sup> Streets, and

**WHEREAS** the NYC Parks Department has proposed installing an Adult Fitness area on the Esplanade in the area underneath the ramp to the Esplanade between 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Streets, the area HSS has committed to improving, and

**WHEREAS** the design of the exercise area will match the color palate approved by the Parks Department, and

**WHEREAS** the Adult Fitness Area will include signage on the safe and proper use of the equipment, and will include a No Dogs Allowed sign in the Adult Fitness Area, and

**WEHREAS** the proposed design of the Adult Fitness Area will include equipment manufactured by KOMPAN, and

**WHEREAS** HSS and the Parks Department committed to installing Adult Fitness Equipment that can be used by Seniors, persons with disabilities, and people of different heights,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the proposed installation of an Adult Fitness Area underneath the ramp between 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Streets, and

**BE IT FURTHER RERSOLVED** that Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly urges that increased lighting be installed in the area to ensure a safe environment, and

**BE IT FURTHER RERSOLVED** that Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly urges that a security camera be installed as part of the construction of the Adult Fitness Area.

**Approved Board Members: 4-0-0 (Farber, Propper, Rudder, B. Schneider)**

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

**3. Parks Department update by Shena Kaufman, District Manager, NYC Parks & Recreation along with Q&A**

- Tramway Plaza is now open. Planting will be done by RIOC. Parks temporarily put 3 iron trash cans in the park until the new Big Belly containers being supplied by RIOC arrive.

- John Jay Park seating area is way ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by next month. “Fingers crossed.”
- Honey Locust is due to be completed January 2023.
- Monday, April 18 is the rally for Ukraine at 5:30 pm, on the plaza at Carl Schurz Park.

#### 4. New/Old Business

- Try to keep a pathway open on the Esplanade while HSS is constructing the Kellen Tower. The Hospital is committed to opening the path as soon as possible and making sure it is safe. A new pedestrian ramp over the FDR is being build going southbound at 71<sup>st</sup> Street. It will open soon.
- Friends of the Esplanade has been working on a Place Marking sign with a map and historical images for some time now. This was presented to Parks Marketing Dept. and PDC for approval. It has been disapproved by Parks. Parks only does custom signage with a Conservancy that has an MOU (legal agreement) with the Parks Dept. Maybe at a future date this could be revised. It was decided that the Hospital, Parks Dept. and Friends should talk about this offline.
- Muslim Volunteers have planned a cleanup and planting at Ruppert Park on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 1pm**. More at next month’s meeting.
- Ruppert Park—Parks is working on construction drawings. October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for design. Then it will take 9 months for procurement. Then construction would start and will take about another year.
- Mary Nell Hawk, of NY Crew, has been cleaning up at 96<sup>th</sup> Street and there is a ladder that doesn’t belong and needs to be removed. Crew has been talking to EDC, Mr. Ortiz, and he says the area is not in the design phase yet—it is a work in progress. Ms. Hawk would like updated information on the status of the davit CB11 is approving a resolution for East River Crew. Our committee chairs will follow up with Board 11 on their resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Felice Farber and Barry Schneider,  
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee