

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Joint with 197-a Committee**
*Tuesday, May 10, 2022 – 6:30PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom*

Minutes

Board Members Present: Saundra I. Coleman, Billy Freeland, Ed Hartzog, Rebecca Lamorte, Gregory J. Morris, and Rita Popper.

Community Board Members Present: Lori Bores, Felice Farber, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, and Barry Schneider

Community Board Public Members Present: Judy Schneider

Community Board Members Excused: Lowell Barton, Sharon Pope-Marshall, and Irma Torres

Felice thanked Barry for his 30 years of extraordinary service, as did the other committee members. This was Barry's last meeting as a community board member and as co-chair of the Parks and Waterfront Committee.

Item 1: Presentation by Erik Linsalata, Deputy Director of Engineering. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation - Update on East River Esplanade, E. 59th – E. 96th Streets with the Q & A:

- Going from South to North — the East Midtown Greenway and Andrew Haswell Green Phase IIB projects are on schedule for completion in fall 2023.
- E. 68 to E. 70 Street — top side work is having substantial inspection this week and should be open by the end of the month.
- Phase 3 major projects are — E. 62 to E. 63 Streets; E. 76 to E. 81 Streets; E. 90 to E. 94 Streets have had a major problem with the permitting process of Army Corp of Engineers (ACE):
 - ACE has just advised Parks they will not be getting the necessary permits. Permit requests were submitted in 2020. Covid has been one of the reasons for the delay, staff losses, etc.
 - ACE is presenting a more extreme regulatory environment than a few years ago.
 - As part of this project, there has to be offsite mitigation for the environmental disruption. Going under the wharf and filling the piling with light concrete to stabilize them and keep them from deterioration from the marine borers. Therefore, Parks has to do mitigation for the lost habitat for species that no longer exist.
 - Parks is doing off-site mitigation by restoration of wetlands in the Bronx & Queens Parks.
 - ACE is saying the restoration of these projects has to be fully permitted and the good faith promise is not good enough.
 - One project is fully designed and Parks is trying to get permits to move forward with the contract. If that does not work, Parks will cut Phase 3 in parts and see if they can get ACE to let them move forward for part of the contract while the second site is designed. ACE is tightening up on its rules.

- Sinkholes at E. 80 Street are not an emergency. It is part of Phase 3 work and will be done at the waterside as soon as it is permitted.
- John Finley Walk Promenade Bridge (81 to 84 Streets) — in conjunction with DOT, is on schedule for final design by the middle of next year and in construction in the summer of 2024. This will take some time as most of the work is from the roadway, as well as topside work. It is an \$80 million project. They are working on a public presentation, which should happen soon. This is a bridge project for structural rehabilitation, therefore, there is probably little room for public input.
- What is going to happen in terms of costs because the project is being held up? Parks is going to suffer when all the approvals are given, due to the heavy construction costs and inflation. There is some contingency being held. Some solutions: try to negotiate; ask for more money; cut out some of the projects for later on—these are some of the solutions.
- Brearley school — in the works. Shrubbery and planting on top of a bridge is difficult.
- Davit that had been at E.96 street for Crew — Cleared location at E. 94th Street for reinstallation that is structurally acceptable for a temporary location. Barry will speak with Steve Simon on this issue.

Item 2: Parks Department update by Shena Kaufman, District Manager, NYC Parks & Recreation along with Q&A

- Tramway Plaza is now open. All work is completed currently waiting for Big Belly Trash receptacles and RIOC to do the planting in June.
- John Jay Park seating area is completed 4 months ahead of schedule and inspection this week. Parks will advise when that area will open.
- Esplanade 68 to 70 is expected to open in about 2 weeks.
- Honey Locust is due to be completed in January 2023.
- Ruppert doing borings from May 17 to the 20 to check the soil in 7 areas. Will remove pieces of wrought iron fence and will reinstall when complete with borings. Will there be any rat abatement during the borings? Shena will look into this.
- Carl Schurz Park Gala was last week on the basketball court and went well.

Item 3: New/Old Business

- Muslim Volunteers semi-annual environmental Steward Group is on **Saturday, May 21** from 10 am to 1 pm. Everyone is invited. Parks is providing a wonderful jazz band Park Rangers; Eco-friendly arts and crafts; planting 2,000 to 3,000 plants; free giveaways and refreshments. Everyone should be masked and stay socially distant. Dress comfortably. Urge everyone to sign up for the event, as parks has limited the number of people who can volunteer.
- Ruppert Park construction is expected to take a least 1 ½ years. During main construction, the entire park will be closed during a full capital renovation.
- Tulips can be dug up on Central Park at 86 & 54 Streets and you need a shovel/pitchfork to do so. This will be the week of May 23.
- There was much discussion about dogs, particularly at Ruppert where they are roaming all over. Parks will fence in the dog run area once the borings are done if the fencing is available. Dogs are a major problem in all parks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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