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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, June 9, 2022 - 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

Board Members Present: Michele Birnbaum, Felice Farber, Sahar Husain, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

Community Board Public Members Present: Barry Schneider, Irma Torres

Community Board Members Excused: Rita Popper

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 1: Central Park North Meadow Center Renovation Unanimous Approval

Felice welcomed Judy Schneider as her new co-chair and Barry Schneider as a public member to the Committee.

Item 1: Presentation of the Renovation of the North Meadow Center in Central Park. The facility that houses park operations and public program, staff, and public rest rooms. Site includes recreation courts and operational space. The Presenters are Lane Addonizio and Bob Rumsey.

- This area is located in the Center of the park, north of the 97th Street Transverse, on the south side of the north meadow ballfields.
- Site includes a building which houses park operations, public program staff, and rest rooms; recreation courts; and operation space.
- Built in 1910 with courtyard, stables and sheds, manure pits.
- 1935 there was a major renovation under Robert Moses. The renovations included basketball and hand ball courts, horseshoes, public rest rooms Brick façade was added, as well as additional doors and new boiler rooms.
- In the early '90s recreational programs were established. Basketball clinics are held, and basketballs are handed out.
- The need for space has continued to grow. The space will be renovated for optimal use; renovate public facilities and park operational space and site work. Site work relates primarily to their green cart fleet which is now electric; underground utility infrastructure work; and screening park operations.
- One of the goals is to address the poor circulation when going to rest rooms. Relocating the checker tables closer to the building. Repaving the basketball courts. There will be 2 dedicated pickle ball courts, bike racks and drinking fountains. Handball courts will be refurbished. The Conservancy will be talking to user groups about how courts will be restriped. There will be additional fencing, rest rooms & public programs staff will be relocated to the central axis and parks operations to the outer edge of the facility.
- Changes and repairs to the building's reconfiguration to relocate the public services to the center and public operations on the outside; three windows that will become doors to match existing doors; masonry cleaning; roof repairs; repointing; and in-kind window replacement.

- Site work improvements on exterior to support park operations. Decentralize West 79th St. yard, which has electric vehicles coming to the north end. A portion of the fleet will now be relocated at this site and will reduce park traffic.
- Operations use include electric fleet cart charging on both sides with access path and fencing and planting so it looks tucked in. Small retaining wall to match basketball courts and planted out.
- The Conservancy is working closely with Landmarks Preservation Commission on this project. The Parks committee will go back to having joint meetings with the Landmarks Committee on future items presented by the Central Park Conservancy, where applicable. All repairs are being made in kind to the building.
- Construction starts this fall, and it will take between 12 and 18 months for completion.
- Q & A
 - The well-used rest rooms will be closed—this is a real problem for the community. Signage will be provided for the nearest rest room.
 - **The lamp posts in the park have way finding signs: E or W and 2 digits; E 67 is East 67th Street.** In case anyone gets lost.
 - Cost is about \$20 million. Infrastructure work underground is extremely expensive, such as electrical and drainage work.
 - Recreation facilities are NOT lit at night in Central Park.

Resolution:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Community Board 8M moves to approve the presentation for the Renovation of the North Meadow Center in Central Park as delivered by the Central Park Conservancy.

Vote Community Board Members: 6 - 0 – 0 (Birnbaum, Farber, Husain, Pope-Marshall, Rudder, J. Schneider)

Vote Public Members: 2 – 0 – 0 (B. Schneider, Tores)

Item 2: Update by NYC Parks District Manager Shena Kaufman and Q&A

- Shena introduced the new Level 2 Supervisor for Districts 6, 8, 15, Lori Knowles. Prior to this she was at Randal’s Island for 6 years and has served as a park enforcement supervisor since 1989.
- City pools including John Jay will open on June 28th from 11 am to 7 pm. At this time no lap swimming or any other programs will take place this season. Trees on the pool deck will be pruned next week. Some trees will be cut back, and some removed. This will not be done until construction area around the pool area is completed.
- John Jay seating area was opened and well received by the public. At Council Member Menin’s request 3 picnic tables were added.
- There was a drainage problem at John Jay Park, but it has been cleaned out now.
- Tramway Plaza: 2 big belly trash receptacles waiting on delivery. Shena will follow up. She will also follow up on watering.
- E. 68 to E. 70 Streets on esplanade completed. However, a fence is in place so one cannot go further up the Esplanade until HSS completes a temporary ramp. Hopefully by the middle of the next month.
- Honey Locust Park is 40% complete. Completion date January 27, 2023.
- Movie night: 24 Sycamores Park is having “A Journal for Jordon” on June 15 at 8:30 pm.
- Volunteer projects hosted at 24 Sycamores and St Catherine’s Park, and they will continue throughout the District 8 area.

Item 3: New/Old Business

- Muslim Volunteers are having their semi-annual environmental Steward Group Fun Event. It is on Wednesday, June 29, and will feature a live jazz band and refreshments for 1 to 1 ½ hours from 5 to 6:30 pm.

- Ruppert Park and dogs: People have been using the north end of the park unofficially as a dog run. PEP have been coming by and talking to dog owners, but not writing tickets. We are trying to get in touch with NYC Parks to get approval to post a sign as a “Temporary Dog Run” for that area. Will keep you posted
- July meeting: Everyone should look at the district needs statement and to look at what has been completed and our capital and expense priorities. Steve Simon, Commissioner’s Chief of Staff from Parks will be attending.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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