

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 Jointly with the 197-a Committee
Thursday October 13, 2022 - 6:30PM

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Felice Farber, Craig Lader and Judy Schneider

Community Board Public Board Members Present: Barry Schneider and Irma Tores

Item 1: Presentation on the East Midtown Greenway (EMG) and Andrew Haswell Green Phase 2B (AHG) by EDC Anikita Nalavade and Yvi McEvilly; Parks Dept Kusalee Vachananda and Mark Vaccaro

- Anikita Nalavade provided a brief overview of the project
 - EMG and AHG Phase 2B is part of the larger Manhattan Waterfront Greenway Plan – It runs from 53rd Street to 62nd Street.
 - AHG will provide approximately a 1-acre new passive recreation area (EDC showed renderings of the project)
 - EDC showed construction progress photos as well as a photo of the unveiling of the new AHG sign on October 7th and provided an update on the project status:
 - Heliport construction is in progress with demolition of east curtain wall and south curtain wall (it opens up the transition area between AHG and EMG)
 - EMG topside construction is underway with planting taking place this fall.
 - 54th Street Pedestrian bridge will be starting with Fence and Railing Fabrication
 - 60th Street Ramp – critical repairs completed.
 - AHG – platform construction is ongoing and will continue until the Fall of 2023
 - Greenway and AHG Phase 2B completion scheduled for December 2023.
 - In response to questions EDC noted:
 - The Warranty and Guarantee from the contractor starts at the completion of the project.
 - The Heliport Structure on the west side of the building will be closed off with a standard Parks 8-foot fence and used for Parks Maintenance and Operations area.
 - To install benches would cost about \$4,000 per bench (\$3000 for the bench plus additional cost for transportation and installation). There is room to install 10-11 benches
 - Water fountains are located at the “merge points” – may be 2 along the stretch of EMG.
 - There are no restrooms at AHG but there is a water fountain. There could be in Phase 3. Mark Vaccaro, NYC Parks, noted that Main feed pipe going up to the top had to be removed for construction reasons. A temporary set up is going to the top. Eventually it will be fixed. Major work has to be done installing a new RPZ.
- Judy asked Yvi to follow-up on the water situation and report back.

Sheena Kaufman, Parks District Manager, Provided an Update on Pickleball in Carl Schurz Park.

Ms. Kaufman informed the Committee that the Parks Department is looking into addressing the demand for space for pickleball at Carl Schurz Park and across Manhattan and hopes to have a resolution by December. Judy Schneider announced that Pickleball in the neighborhood parks will be put on a future committee agenda once there is more direction from the Parks Dept.

In Response to complaints of dogs off leash at John Jay Park, Ms. Kaufman requested increased PEP officer enforcement throughout the day for dogs off leash. She will continue to monitor the situation.

Item 2: Presentation on the Esplanade from 94th Street to 107th Street by Kathryn Prybylski and Diana Switaj of NYC EDC

- EDC is managing the design and construction of the Esplanade Repairs for the Parks Dept. The scope of the project runs from 94th Street to 107th Street, includes reconstruction of the Pier at 107th Street and continues with repairs to the esplanade from 117th – 124th Streets.
- EDC is just getting started. They have onboarded the design team. Stantec was selected to lead the design team.
- The project involves the reconstruction of the Esplanade and Bulkhead to bring it up to a state of good repair. There will be some modest elevation increase to account for sea level rise. There will also be an art installation on the pier.
- The design team just started their site investigation and some subsurface geotechnical investigations.

A concern was raised about the intersection of bicyclists and pedestrians and making sure the design accommodates separate areas for bicyclists and pedestrians, where the space allows.

Item 3: Presentation by Friends of the East River Esplanade by Jean Kim, New Executive Director

- Jean introduced herself and discussed upcoming events being offered by the Friends of the East River Esplanade.
 - October 15, 11am at 96th Street, public art installation opening event.
 - October 16, 11am at 96th Street, It's my Parks Day with Upper Greenside.
 - October 29, 1-4pm Halloween with Gene Casey and the Lone Sharks.
 - November 11, 11am Billion Oysters/Good Will Oyster Trap Project at 90th Street.
 - November 5, 1-4 Funky Soul Dance Band.
 - They are planning a Winter Celebration with winter ornament sculptures.
- Ms. Kim noted that seniors have contacted the Friends about concerns over motorized vehicles along the Esplanade. Ms. Kim noted that they are not allowed, and they are contacting the 19th Precinct about the situation.

Item 4: Update by Sheena Kaufman, Parks District Manager, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

- Honey locust Park is about 90% done. Pictures were shown of the work so far.
- Ruppert Park – Ms. Kaufman is receiving complaints about loud barking in the evening. She sent out Parks staff to investigate and confirmed that there was very loud barking at 9:24pm. Rupert closes at 10pm. Mark Vaccaro from the Parks Department noted that there is a long-term problem with dogs in Ruppert Park. Ms. Kaufman noted that the complaint also involves the dog barking continues after the park is closed.

Item 5: Old Business – Ms. Kaufman updated the committee earlier in the meeting on Carl Schurz Park and John Jay Park

Item 6: New Business – No new business was raised.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

By Felice Farber and Judy Schneider