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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, September 14, 2023 -6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs 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.

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 2: Approval of the Central Park Conservancy presentation as shown of the restrooms at the Great Hill and the Delacorte

Item 3: Approval of the presentation of the Concession and Addition of Pergola Structure at Mineral Spring in Central Park, as presented by the Parks Department

MINUTES

Community Board Members Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Judith Schneider.

Community Board Public Board Members Present: Barry Schneider, Irma Torres.

Item 1: Report by NYC Parks Dept. Manager, Shena Kaufman

- Carl Schurz Park – seeking support for money to renovate 87th Street bathrooms – about \$6M. Shena will follow up with the exact amount. Council Member Menin allocated \$2.7 M for renovations to the MPAA at Carl Schurz Park.
- 24 Sycamore Park – Council Member Menin allocated \$2.2 M. Parks Dept needs more money for the park renovations.
- St. Catherines Park & Ballfield – working on design, hope to present in early 2024.
- Ruppert Park– construction documents in legal review, construction expected to start Summer 2024.
- John Jay Park – in talks with the contractor, no exact start date yet.
- John Jay Park – there have been complaints about 2 ladies, “religious seekers”, asking to hold children. The Parks Dept. will stake out park – it is a violation to be inside a playground without a child. Parks working with 19th Precinct.
- Stanley Isaacs Hockey Rink – Construction to start in Oct 2023 and end January 2024. They are not putting in lights or score board.
- Samuel Seabury Park – part of playground closed off while emergency repairs made to 166 East 96th Street, supposed to end in December.
- Shena provided a canine report on the number of fines for dogs off leash in Ruppert, John Jay and Carl Schurz Parks.
- Public Comments/Questions:
 - Q: When will permanent nets be installed at Carl Schurz. Shena - Parks will not install permanent nets until renovations completed. Parks will be renovating the entire MPAA.
 - Q: Will off-leash hours be implemented at John Jay? Shena – no dogs are allowed in John Jay, that is why summons are being issued.

- Q: When the MPAA is renovated, requested the pickleball courts moved south to fit in a 4th pickleball court in the same space. Shena, suggested part of Stanley Isaacs could be turned into pickleball. It is being looked at and it would take 6-9 months for the work.

Item 2: Presentation on Great Hill Public Restroom and the Delacorte Public Restroom by Central Park Conservancy (CPC) -- Diane Jackier Kestenbaum, VP of Capital Program and Nick Koster, VP of Design and Sandy Huber, SVP for Central Park Conservancy.

- See Parks Committee on September 14 on Community Board 8 Website to read the following documents:
 - [Delacorte Public Restroom and Sitework Renovations Project Summary-August 2023](#)
 - [Great Hill Project Summary-August 2023](#)
 - [2023.09.14-DELACTION and GHILL Review-Community Board 8](#)
- Diane Jackier reviewed project goals and history. Nick Koster reviewed the project details.
 - CPC will restore building exteriors, facades, roof, accessibility, and historical elements and move to electric. The Delacorte Theater and restroom projects will be completed by the 2025 season.
 - Project will include accessibility improvements to the paths leading to the restrooms. This involves re-grading the slopes and adding handrails in certain areas. Plans include a full renovation of the Delacorte restroom and restoring historical details. Will be increasing the number of stalls in the women's room by 8.
 - Schedule – Procurement, Winter 2024, start construction Spring 2024 - complete Spring 2025.
 - Great Hill public restroom renovation at 106th Street. Work involves regrading to improve accessibility in certain areas and install ramp with handrails, full restoration of the facility, repairing the drinking fountain, restoring the windows, and making it a modern facility. Will add electric heat to make it year-round. Construction 9 Months -- start Spring 2024 to completion Fall 2024.
 - Chess and Checkers House now reopened with public restrooms – near the Dairy just above Wolman Rink.

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 approves the Central Park Conservancy presentation as shown of the restrooms at the Great Hill and the Delacorte.

Member Vote: 5-0-0 (Yes—Farber, Hershenson, Popper, Rudder, J. Schneider)

Public Member Vote: 2-0-0 (Yes—Torres, B. Schneider)

Item 3: Reconstruction of the Concession and Addition of Pergola Structure at Mineral Spring in Central Park by NYC Parks Department – Joy Gutierrez, Parks Architect for Revenue & Concessions, & Tony Macari and by Architects: Richard Lewis and Jason Gold of Richard Lewis Company on behalf of the concessionaire Le Pain Quotidien (LPQ).

- See Parks Committee on September 14 on Community Board 8 Website to read the following documents:
 - [2023.09.14 LPQ MINERAL SPRINGS PRESENTATION](#)
- Jason Gold presenting design and reconstruction of pergola of Mineral Springs near 69th Street and West Drive.
 - LPQ has been the license concessionaire since 2010. Rebid in 2022, and LPQ was granted a 15-year concession renewal.
 - The facility has public restrooms that were recently renovated.
 - Creating a pergola structure that is enclosable to be a 365-day a year facility. The roof will be louvered and can be opened in fair weather, therefore, will not require AC. There will heat for the winter.
 - This will be an addition to the existing building. The work involves the pergola only.
 - Landmarks has to approve the Pergola. Landmarks public hearing scheduled for October 31st.
 - The project does not change the full capacity of the area.

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 approves the presentation of the Concession and Addition of Pergola Structure at Mineral Spring in Central Park, as presented by the Parks Department
Member Vote: 5-0-2 (Yes—Farber, Hershenson, Popper, Rudder, J. Schneider)
Public Member Vote: 2-0-0 (Yes—Torres, B. Schneider)

Item 4: Old Business/New Business

1. A question was raised about adding pickleball to John Jay Park while Carl Schurz is under construction.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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