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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Roosevelt Island Committee
Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.**

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:

Item 1: Approval of the Application from Cornell Tech to the Public Design Commission to install four graphic/signage elements on its Roosevelt Island campus.

MINUTES:

Present: Judith Berdy (Public Member), Amrah Cardoso (Public Member), Paul Krikler, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Abraham Salcedo.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 30

Audrey Tannen, representing Liz Kruger, who was protesting at the Moms for Liberty demonstration in the Upper East Side, presented community activist Matt Waldman with a Certificate of Recognition for his work on transportation issues on Roosevelt Island.

Item 1 – PUBLIC HEARING: Application from Cornell Tech to the Public Design Commission to install four graphic/signage elements on its Roosevelt Island campus.

Cornell Campus Signage Proposal

1. Cornell hired consultant Skidmore to increase brand recognition of RI campus. The proposal consisted of four levels:
 1. Banners: to be installed onto light posts
 2. Dimensional shield to be installed next to “C” column at entrance of campus
 3. Wall-mounted dimensional letter logo at two of the campus buildings
 4. Change LED light curtain at the House from white to Cornell red

The following resolution was put forward:

WHEREAS Cornell Tech is seeking approval of four (4) brand aligned elements to be installed on the campus exterior to enhance the University’s presence and identity.

WHEREAS the proposed elements are: 1) metal banners on select existing lampposts; 2) a three-dimensional university seal at the campus northwest entry; 3) pin letters identifying the university at the existing terrace retaining walls at two buildings; 4) replacement of white LED bulbs with University red bulbs illuminating the louvers above building entry of the residential building.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 approves this application.

Yes (5): Judith Berdy (Public Member), Amrah Cardoso (Public Member), Paul Krikler, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Abraham Salcedo.

Item 2 – A discussion of the F-Shuttle shutting down every weekend in February

1. Paul Krikler asked RIOC interim CEO, Gerrald Ellis, what could RIOC do to mitigate the foreseen problems with the shutdown and the complicated schedule MTA had put in place. He asked for comments from the public. (Below are comments received)
 1. Change of platform left construction debris, dust and no ventilation on side now being used by commuters. Can officials and RIOC engage the MTA to clean station and communicate changes, directions better? Tannen to cooperate with RIOC to get the message across.
 2. Shuttle buses seem to be stopping only at MTA stops and not at identified shuttle stops. Can MTA drivers be instructed to stop?
 3. Can RIOC operate more red bus shuttles to supplement supply? RIOC responded that there are only 4 buses operational in the fleet, 1 which might be recommissioned to supplement schedule, and 2 which are on order - RIOC is requesting RTA funding to cover the \$700K needed. The public suggested not waiting until buses become obsolete before ordering new buses - a roving purchase schedule should be instituted.
 4. Coordination of red bus/tram is off during off-peak hours, since the trams are running on peak schedules. Problem with supply at the north part of the island mostly. POMA's emphasis is on running the trams which sometimes causes trams not to wait for arriving red bus. RIOC will try to coordinate schedules better with POMA.
 5. A suggestion to use Octagon shuttles to supplement red bus schedule was considered problematic since the Octagon pays RIOC \$150K/year to run service.

Item 3 – Roosevelt Island Tram - discussion with Resident RIOC Directors

1. Overcrowding problem and possible solutions were discussed:
 1. Disincentivizing tourists from using cheap visual tour/Instagram moments by tinting windows, similarly to MTA marketing system which uses exterior wraps allowing some outward visibility. Concerns about security were made, with the public and PSD worrying about visibility into cabins during emergencies. *(Note: since MTA uses system security measures could be discussed with them)*
 2. Using wraps on one tram only to measure effectiveness. Concerns were raised about the likely impossibility of managing flow of tourists into the "correct" tram at ground level, which also could increase wait time since north and south trams do arrive/depart at the same time.
 3. Creating priority queues for resident seniors and people with challenges. Concerns were raised about invisible challenges and the willingness of users to identify publicly. Suggestion was made of cards to be issued by RIOC which could be used by those residents. Dhru, CFO, will look into possibility. *(Note: Doctor's prescriptions for accommodations have been abused.)*
 4. Suggestion to install signs at elevators showing that seniors have priority to board
 5. PSD and contact with the public - they could be more helpful and less arrogant. A problem with PSD activity at the tram brought about concerns from station attendants about who was responsible for what.
 6. Concerns were raised about disincentivizing tourism, which can bring income to the island, and also presents a hostile environment to region visitors. Maybe announcements by tram operators could be made asking tourists to wait for residents to board the cabin first.
 7. A suggestion was made to use variable pricing as a way to prioritize resident use over tourists. This issue might have to be taken to City Council, since the tram franchise ties ticket cost to the subway's fee. A possibility is to allow multiple trips to be purchased at a discount for residents. RIOC to analyze potential.

Item 4 – Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 5 – New Business

Paul Krikler announced that on February 7th the Transportation Committee will have the MTA present.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Paul Krikler, Chair, Roosevelt Island Committee