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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, April 11, 2024 - 6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.

MINUTES

Community Board Members Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Craig Lader, and Rita Popper.

Community Board Members Excused: Barbara Rudder and Judy Schnieder.

Community Board Public Board Member Present: Irma Torres.

Community Board Public Member Excused: Barry Schneider.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 20

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Item 1: Announcement about our new Manhattan Borough Commissioner

Felice Farber welcomed Tricia Shimamura to her new role as Manhattan Borough Commissioner, a position she has been in for just two weeks. Tricia provided welcoming remarks and expressed her enthusiasm for the new position and her excitement to work with the Community Board.

Item 2: Update by Shena Kaufman, Parks District 8 Manager, NYC Dept. Parks & Recreation

John Jay Park – Construction of the Multi-Purpose Play Area has begun. The pool deck work is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day.

Ruppert Park – Parks submitted the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to DEP. Once approved, the project can be put out to bid. No specific timeline was provided. During the public comments, a request was made for Ruppert Park to be included as a separate line item on the agenda each month.

St. Catherine's Park Renovation will be presented to the Committee in May.

Item 3: Update by Robert McLean, Parks District 15 Manager (Esplanade), NYC Dept. P&R

Robert McLean provided an update on the capital project to repair the East River Esplanade.

Bid Solicitations for the East River Esplanade Phase 2 has been extended from March 27 to April 26 to allow time to respond to all of the questions asked by interested bidders. Phase 2 is the fenced-off section in CB11 from East 114-117th Street.

Bid Solicitations for Phase 3 are due April 29th. Phase 3 includes 3 sites: East 62-63, East 76-80, and East 90-94.

Parks hopes construction will begin in the fall.

Installation of the lighting by the Alice Aycock Pavilion started today. Half the area has been fenced off. When the work is completed, they will move to the other half. Work should be completed in 2-3 weeks.

Item 4: Update from the Friends of the East River Esplanade by Jean Kim, Executive Director

Jean Kim updated the Community Board on efforts to have security cameras installed on the Esplanade. She noted that 2 cameras are set to be installed by 59th Street as early as this summer. Pending available funding, more security cameras may be on the way as well.

Jean also updated the Committee on the Spring and Summer events planned by Friends. The full list of upcoming events can be found [here](#).

Item 5: Update on Event presented by the MV4NY: Environmental Stewardship & Park Beautification at Ruppert Park

Mubeen Siddiqui provided a history of work that Muslim Volunteers for New York has done over the past 10 years. The group was designated a steward of Ruppert Park and has put considerable effort into cleaning up and beautifying the park. MV4NY organizes two park clean-up events every year in the Spring and Fall. The upcoming clean-up for Ruppert Park will be held on **Saturday, May 18th**. Volunteers are welcome and should register to participate.

Items 6: Old and New Business

At the March meeting, Judy Schneider announced that the Parks and Waterfront Committee would ***not*** meet in May, August, and December unless there is an issue that requires an immediate resolution by the Committee and the Board. There is an issue that requires immediate attention in May, and therefore the Committee will hold a May meeting (May 9th) to hear from the Parks Department on the proposed design of St. Catherine's Park.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

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