

Valerie S. Mason
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
Thursday, July 11, 2024 - 6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs 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 Presentation on the North End Recirculation and Harlem Meer Shoreline and Boardwalk

MINUTES

Community Board Members Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Rita Popper, Judy Schneider

Community Board Public Board Member Present: Barry Schneider, Irma Torres

Community Board Member Excused: Barbara Rudder

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 23

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Presentation by Diane Jackier, Nick Koster and Sandy Huber on the North End Recirculation and Harlem Meer shoreline and boardwalk

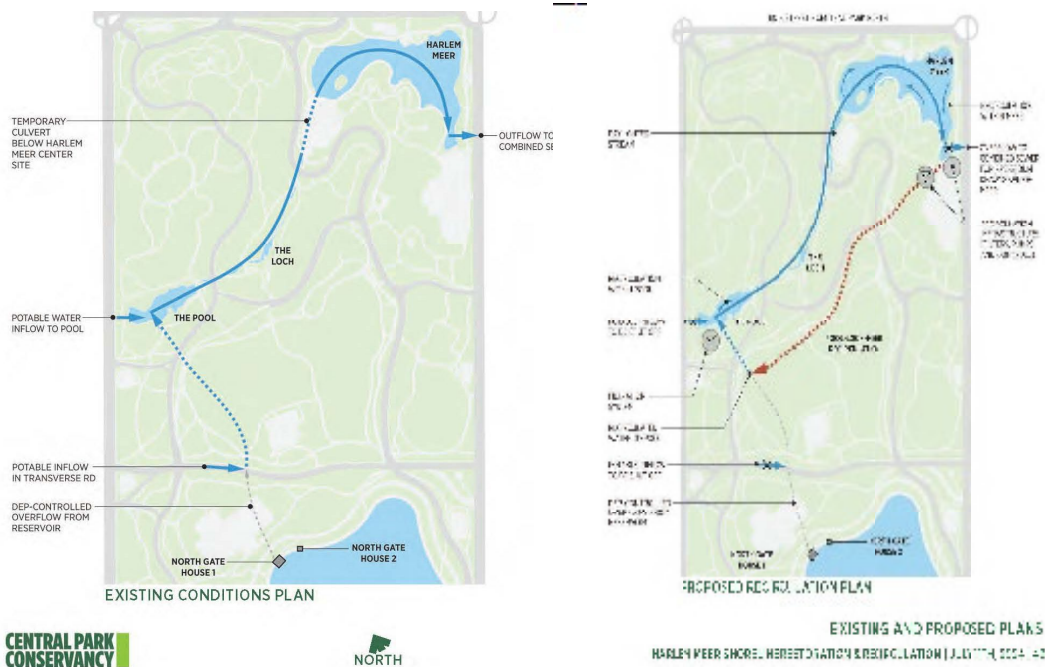
- A. Harlem Meer Shoreline and Boardwalk Project Summary
- B. North End Recirculation Project Summary
- C. Restoration of the Harlem Meer Shoreline & North End Recirculation System Presentation

This project continues to build upon the work that the Central Park Conservancy (CPC) has done to date in and around the Harlem Meer, including the circa-1990 restoration of the Meer, the E110 and E108 playground projects, and the ongoing Harlem Meer Center project.

Sandy Huber, SVP for Capital Projects at the CPC provided an overview of the project. Nick Koster then discussed the Harlem Meer Shoreline and Boardwalk Project. He provided the history of the development of the area and explained the project. He noted that the work will be completed in phases and described the phases of the work.



Diane Jackier, VP for Program Management at CPC, then discussed the North End Recirculation project. The project would create a closed loop water recirculation system. Currently, potable water flows in from the west side of the park and then flows out the east side to a combined stormwater system. The project will install a recirculation system to reduce the potable water that will go into the pool. The project is projected to save 175 million gallons of potable water per year and reduce wet weather flow to combined sewers.



The Harlem Meer Lasker Rink project is scheduled to be completed next year. The shoreline project will take about five years. The recirculation project will start next year and will take about a year to complete.

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Central Park Conservancy proposal as presented for the Restoration of the Harlem Meer Shoreline and Boardwalk and North End Recirculation System.

VOTE: 6-0-0 (Popper, B. Schneider – Public Member, J. Schneider, Farber, Hershenson, Torres – Public Member)

Item 2: Discussing CB8 Parks Budget with Steve Simon of NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

A discussion was held with Steve Simon about the capital needs of the parks in Community District 8 and the status of construction at Ruppert Park.

Ruppert Park – Steve Simon provided an update on the Ruppert Park project. He noted that DEP has requested the Parks Dept. provide additional information for the SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan). Parks hopes to have the SWPPP approved by the end of August. Once the SWPPP is approved, the project has to go through Parks Legal and Law Dept. review. Steve hopes to have the project out to bid by the end of the year.

Andrew Haswell Green Phase 3 – The project involves the area under the old heliport structure. The project has not been designed yet. It is still in the conceptual phase. Funding is needed to begin design. Based on the conceptual design the cost could run as high as \$40 million.

John Jay Park – The ribbon cutting for the work recently completed in John Jay Park will be held by the end of July. Rehabilitation work still needed for John Jay Park includes:

- Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of the Park House – the roof leaks, there are holes in the walls, and there are problems with the electrical systems.
- Rehabilitation of the Tot Lot and addressing the frequent clogging of the drain in the sprinkler area. The sand box and the sprinkler area are too close together, resulting in sand clogging the drains in the sprinkler area. Either the sandbox needs to be moved or removed from the park. Community input is needed on this issue. The Tot Lot was last rehabilitated in 2004.

Carl Schurz Park – We thank Council Member Julie Menin, who recently secured in the city budget an allocation of \$1.5 million to renovate the public restroom at 87th Street. The total project cost is projected to be approximately \$3.8 million. Additional funding is required for this project. Funding is also needed to upgrade the restroom at 84th Street.

St. Catherines Park – Reconstruction fully funded and discussed at the last two Parks Committee meetings.

East River Walk (63-81st Street) / East River Esplanade (E90-E125) – The Parks Dept. recently accepted bids for the Phase 3 project (there are 3 locations – 62-64, 76-82, and 90-94 streets). The lowest bidder withdrew, and the second lowest bidder was \$14 million over budget. The project will be rebid.

Samuel Seabury Playground – The play equipment area, the MPPA (multi-purpose play area), and the restrooms need renovation. The restroom would require a gut renovation – approx. cost over \$3 million. The park reconstruction needs about \$9 million as a rough estimate.

Twenty-Four Sycamores Park – A total of \$3.2 million is available. This will allow for the renovation of the playground area on the upper level. Additional funding would be needed to reconstruct the ball and basketball areas – approximately \$1.2 million more is needed.

Stanley Isaacs Playground – We thank Council Member Menin for the recent budget allocation of \$350,000 to install sports lighting for the hockey rink. The total project cost is \$1.4 million. Parks also wants to redo and upgrade the play equipment and make the restroom ADA compliant.

Tramway Park – Not on Parks Dept. list to install water installation at this time.

Expense Items – Judy Schneider mentioned the need for additional PEP officers and that the budget had been cut for this item.

Item 3: Update by Shena Kaufman, Parks District Manager, NYC Dept. P&R

John Jay work has been completed and the pool opened for the summer. Pool hours are extended to 8 PM during a heat wave.

Public Comments:

- Concerns raised about the status of Ruppert Park and the time frame for getting approval of the SWPPP.

- Question about the status of work on the MPPA at Carl Schurz – Parks has assigned the work to a landscape architect and will be starting the work soon. They probably will be coming back to us in September.
- Requested posting of rules at MPPA to address private efforts to establish paid competitive pickleball tournaments. Shena noted that area is still posted as a hockey rink and that there are not enough PEP officers to monitor the area. Steve Simon responded indicating they will look to make the pickleball courts official. Judy requested signage be installed.
- A request was made for the installation of permanent nets at the MPPA at Carl Schurz. However, Parks said that was not practical.
- A question was raised about additional pickleball courts. Steve is still looking at Stanley Isaacs conversion from handball courts. It was said that the concrete surface was in poor condition.
- Concerns raised about the status of Ruppert Park and the time frame for getting approval of the SWPPP.

Item 4: Update by Robert Mclean, Parks District 15 Manager (Esplanade) NYC Dept. P&R

This item was laid over for discussion at a future meeting.

Item 5 & 6: Old and New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

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