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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, September 12, 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 Alterations to the Swedish Cottage, Central Park by Amy Woodin of the NYC Parks Department

MINUTES

Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Craig Lader, Rita Popper, Judy Schneider, Barry Schneider*

Excused: Irma Torres*

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 30

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

Item 1: Presentation by Amy Woodin, NYC Parks Dept. on the Swedish Cottage in Central Park

The Swedish Cottage and Marionette Theatre is located off Central Park West and the 79th Street Transverse.

There are two major changes being proposed that need a vote; the roof and other work are being looked at by staff at the Landmarks Commission:

1. The railings on the cottage will be replaced with bronze railings and new round wooded posts to match the existing posts. They will be ADA-accessible.
2. The Swedish Flag now hangs on the same pole as the American flag, and this is against foreign guidelines. Therefore, they will keep the one existing American flag on the roof pole, and two new poles will be installed in front of the cottage in cement, one for each country.

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the Central Park Conservancy proposal as presented for the New Railings and Installation of Two New Flag Poles.

Board Member Vote: 4-0-0 Hershenson, Lader, J. Schneider, B. Schneider (Public Member)

Item 2: Presentation of Parts of the Esplanade from 94th to 124th Streets by Mary Eveleigh of Parks Dept. and Meredith Simon-Pearson and Tara Das of EDC Recreation

Timing: Design started in August 2022. In 2023 EDC showed CB11 what the PDC had approved to that point. By November, it is expected that the design will be 90% complete. In December 2024 a presentation for the final

design will be made to CB 11. Procurement is expected in 2025. Hunter Roberts Construction Group is the construction manager, and they estimate it will take 3 years to complete.

Layout and Equipment/Apparatus:

- The project addresses sea level rise by increasing height to reduce flooding impacts. Going up the Esplanade there are two design conditions: a shared-use bike path and a dedicated bike path with a shared median in the middle.
- The 96th Street entrance to the Esplanade is the only one at street level. It has 2 ADA-accessible ramps to deal with the height increase above sea level, with bollards for protection, and is also an entrance for park vehicles.



- The plan has overlooks into the river to allow for activities such as the Bait Station, seating, activities, and room for park trucks to turn around.
- The Northern part is the widest and has more room for a planted area with trees and a lawn to sit on and view the bridges.
- Besides plantings there is seating, children's games, tables, and musical interactive play area with drums, and adult fitness equipment.
- At 107th Street there will be a unique triangular-shaped NEW PIER, with 2 entrances to the Pier. Some of the existing concrete piers in the river will remain, as there is a blooming ecological system growing around them. There will be a diversity of seating including lounge chairs. They all look out in different directions. There is a shade canopy inspired by waves, winds, and sailboat sails.

107th Street Pier | Site Plan



- There will be a piece of Public Artwork adjacent to the Pier by Jerome Haferd called “Water Table”. It represents a mix of the urban grid and the Harlem River and is an interfacing relationship with the pier at the triangle. It will have seating and artwork. The artwork is inspired by the local school children the artist met with.
- There will be call boxes spaced out along the length of this project with a ladder at each one (in case someone falls in the river.) The closest call box in CB8 will probably be at 96th Street. There will also be street designations denoting your location on the Esplanade.

Questions & Discussion on Esplanade: On various parts of the project, specific concerns were raised about lighting, security, vandalism, pedestrians, and bikes (particularly electric). Very specifically it has been requested for many years that **call boxes and street marking** be carried out in CB8. This would probably have to be a special new project and needs following up.

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

- For problems on the Esplanade, Robert works with Central Park PEP Officers. There have been problems with e-bikes on the Esplanade. Robert will report back on this and what might be done, such as posting signage.
- Vandalism and a tree damaged in the sixties were reported to the police.
- Repairs for Phase 3, bids will be opened in January. They cover: 62/63; major repair work of sinkholes 76/80; and 90/94 Streets. Question: is from 70 up to 76 Street where there are additional holes, **is this included in Phase 3?**
- Robert is working on lighting with DOT in the 60’s and then will go up north. Some of these lights have not worked for years and may have to be rebuilt. After that, he will be working on plumbing issues.

Item 4: Update by Shena Kaufman, Parks District Manager, NYC Dept. P&R

- Ribbon Cutting will be Tuesday, September 17, at 10:15 am, at John Jay Park for the new MPP Area.
- St Catherine’s Park will have Family Fun Day from 12 to 3 this Saturday, September 14th.
- At Samuel Seabury Park, scaffolding is scheduled to come down on September 30th.

- Ruppert Park—Shena is following up on the stormwater prevention plan, which is still with DEP and waiting for comments.
- Parks received the funding for Stanley Isaacs to clear out drains and hope to open the bathrooms soon.
- Carl Schurz Park had their Annual Art show this past weekend, which had a great turnout.
- At Carl Schurz there was an assault reported to the police, which happened on the pickleball courts. It is a very disturbing issue. If there is continuing bullying and people getting hurt over a game, Shena will request her supervisors to have the courts removed.

Public Comments:

- At John Jay, Shena is trying hard to get one side of the handball court as a pickleball court.
- Phyllis Wallach reported to Carl Schurz she is getting a second bin which will have 3 nets and balls that she is supplying, personal codes will be available so people can come when they want. The CURRENT problem is 3 or 4 people come at 7 and stay for hours. She is requesting “Open Play 4 on/4 off”. This is happening in other parks in the city. The community feels the rules need to be changed and if they are changed signage must be posted alerting the players.
- It is agreed that the Parks Committee of CB8 will write a letter to Steve Simon to see if this rule can be implemented.
- Friends of the Esplanade has a host of events, please see the attached flyer.

Item 5 & 6: Old and New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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

Esplanade Friends Events

Fall 2024



**09/28,
10/19 & 10/27**

1pm-4pm

Events will be
canceled for
inclement
weather.

Live Music at Aycock Pavillion & Andrew Haswell Green Park

at Andrew Haswell Green Park 60th St & East River Waterfront

Join us for our popular family friendly live music events. There will be kid-friendly activities & free ice cream! Our activities and lineup includes:

09/28, **EsplanadeFriends Events** with LILLIMURE

10/19, **SALSAbraction! Salsa Music & Dance lessons** with Cuarteto Guataca ft. Marlon "International" Mills

10/27, **EsplanadeFriends Halloween! Join us for music & face painting** with Gene Casey & the Lone Sharks

09/22

1pm-2pm

Rain Date:
09/23 at
6PM

Yoga with Ironstrength

at Andrew Haswell Green Park 60th St & East River Waterfront

An Ironstrength x EsplanadeFriends collaboration. Join us for yoga with an incredible view!

RSVP Required: Email Executivedirector@esplanadefriends.org

**09/18 &
10/09**

6pm-7:30pm

Birdwalk with NYCBirdAlliance

NYCBirdAlliance x EsplanadeFriends present a great bird walk along the East Harlem Waterfront.

RSVP Required: Email Executivedirector@esplanadefriends.org

09/25

5pm-7pm

EsplanadeFriends Open to the Public Fishing

Learn to fish with the NY State Dept of Environmental Conservation. Open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All fishing is catch and release.

RSVP Required: Email Executivedirector@esplanadefriends.org

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DONATIONS

