

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, May 9, 2024 - 6:30PM*  
*Conducted remotely on Zoom.*

*Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes are recommendations 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.*

**Resolutions for Approval:**

Item 1: **Approval of the Department of Parks & Recreation Proposed Design of St. Catherines Park**

Item 2: **Approval of Public Artworks Installation at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Item 3: **Approval to Explore Converting 4 of the 8 Handball Courts at Stanley Isaacs Park to Pickleball Courts**

**MINUTES**

**Community Board Members Present:** Lori Bores, Felice Farber, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

**Community Board Members Excused:** Bradley Hershenson

**Community Board Public Board Member Present:** Barry Schneider

**Community Board Public Member Excused:** Irma Torres

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees:** 17

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

Judy Schneider, co-chair, started the meeting with a few announcements.

- Lighting was installed at Andrew Haswell Green Park, around the Alice Aycock Pavilion. Photos were shown of the work.
- Community Board 11 Manhattan held a presentation on the Bobby Wagner Walk reconstruction plan. Parks will provide a full presentation at the September CB8M Parks Committee Meeting. The presentation can be found at this link [here](#).

**Item 1: Presentation by Christopher Crowley of the Parks Department on the new layout for St. Catherine's Park.**

We want to thank Manhattan Borough Commissioner Tricia Shimamura for attending this meeting and participating.

Christopher Crowley provided a history of St. Catherine's Park and the design reference for the park. He explained that the east side of the park was last done in 1999 and the west side (ballfield) in 2004.

The total funding for the project is \$9M, with \$6M for construction (\$4.85M from Mayor Adams, \$590,000 from Council Member Ayala, and \$3.6M from the Blood Center). The neighborhood has the least amount of park space in New York City.

Crowley reviewed the overall project goals. Pickleball will be introduced to the fitness area. The nearby school uses the fitness area during school hours, and the school requested pickleball.

He reviewed the existing conditions of the park and explained that the park design is modeled after St. Catherine's church in Italy where relics of St. Catherine lie. He then explained all the proposed changes, enhancements, and refurbishment of the park.

Requests were made for Parks to provide pickleball nets, which they said they would do.

Parks is open to suggestions from the community on plantings and noted that existing plants will be protected during construction. New planting will be added as part of this project, to fill in sparse areas.

The two elephants in the water play area will be replaced with new elephants, as the existing elephants probably cannot be refurbished. Additional spray elements, both tall and rotating, as well as in the ground will be added.

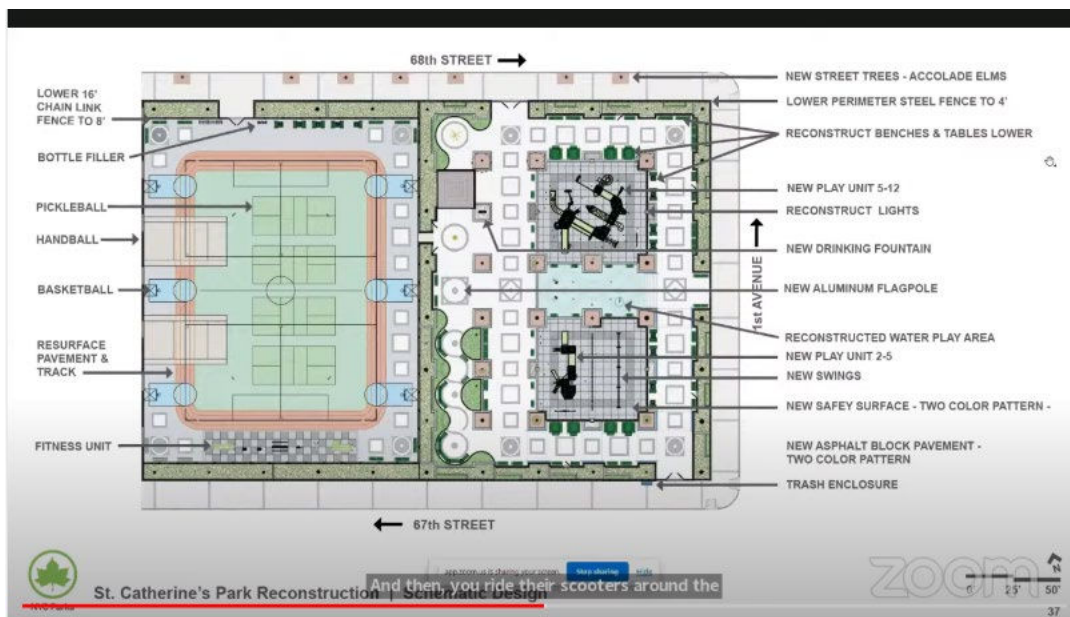
The sandbox is being eliminated. There will now be six swings and one new ADA Swing added.

All the children's climbing play equipment is being replaced throughout the park/ballfield with more modern and colorful equipment.

Permanent metal trash bins will be located outside the 67<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.

Granite blocks will be removed from around the trees and replaced with mulch.

The community requested the total fence height (including base) be six feet all around the park perimeter. The community strongly recommended that the additional interior fencing be maintained as a child safety measure. The public restroom will be a separate construction project, handled by the Parks Department. More information on the status, timing and funding for the public restroom was requested. Parks committed to providing follow-up. Construction duration will be 365 days. Procurement is expected to start in 2025 and construction should start by the end of 2025 or Spring of 2026.



## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS** the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed to reconstruct and refurbish St. Catherine's Park located on First Avenue between 67th and 68th Streets and;

**WHEREAS** concern was expressed about the height of the fence surrounding the park and requested the fence height be at least six feet high on all sides of the park and;

**WHEREAS** Parks will explore the placement of the sculpture in another location and;

**WHEREAS** Parks should retain the two interior gates at the park entrances for child safety

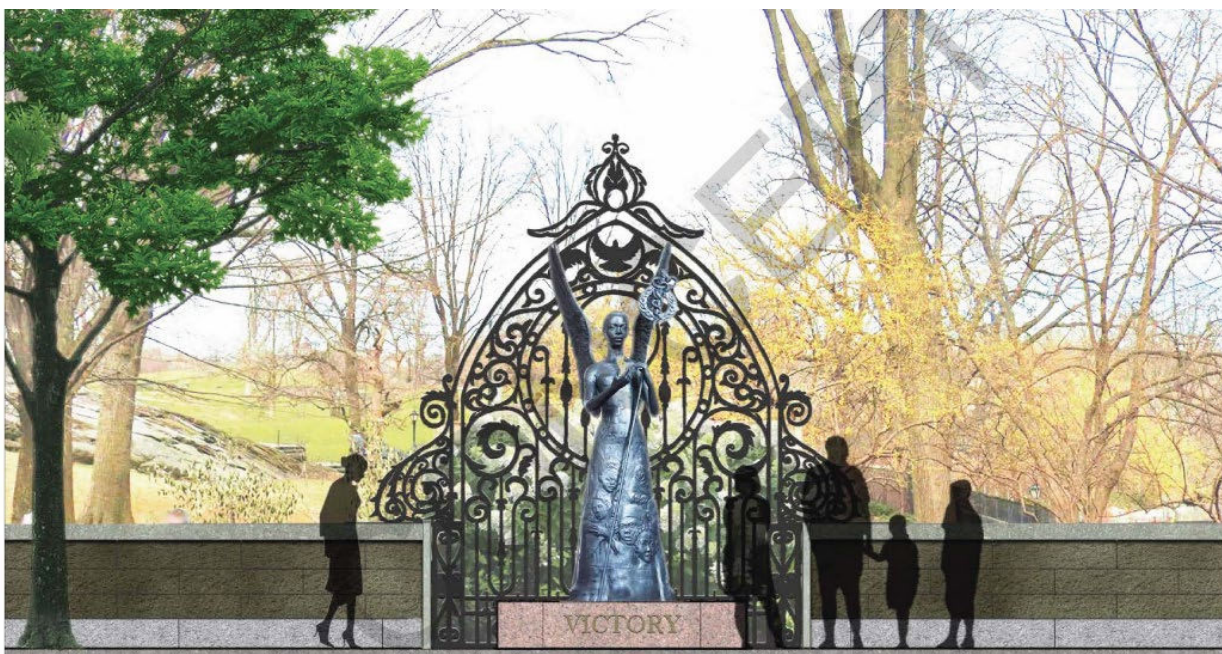
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan Parks & Waterfront Committee approves the proposed design of St. Catherine's Park contingent on addressing the issues raised above by the community.

Board Member Vote: 6-0-0 Yes (Bores, Farber, Popper, Rudder, J. Schneider, B. Schneider - Public Member)

**Item 2: Presentation of Public Artwork at 103rd Street & Central Park by David Mandel, Dept. of Cultural Affairs and the Artist Vinnie Bagwell**

**(Started at 7:57 pm)**

David Mandel of the Department of Cultural Affairs introduced the artist, Vinnie Bagwell, who gave a brief history of the prior statue that had been removed and a history and description of the new statue that will be in that location. There will be a decorative gate behind the new metal statue of Victory, which is on a marble base. After this has been presented to the five Community Boards around the park, it will proceed to the various city agencies for approval.



**RESOLUTION**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan Parks & Waterfront Committee approves the installation of Vinnie Bagwell's new Victory Statue to be located at 103rd Street and Central Park.

Board Member Vote: 6-0-0 Yes (Bores, Farber, Popper, Rudder, J. Schneider, B. Schneider - Public Member)

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

**(Started 8:18)**

- Ruppert – still in legal, still trying to get through the process.
- John Jay Park – Expect full work to be completed by end of the Month. Entrance to the park will be closed for repaving for one and a half weeks, starting next week.
- Stanley Isaacs – Shena proposed taking four of the eight handball courts at Stanley Isaacs and converting them into pickleball.

**RESOLUTION**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan Parks & Waterfront Committee supports the Parks Department conversion of four of the eight handball courts at Stanley Isaacs to pickleball courts as soon as possible.

Member Vote: 6-0-0 Yes (Bores, Farber, Popper, Rudder, J. Schneider, B. Schneider - Public Member)

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

**(Started 8:28)**

The bids for the sinkholes in the 70's are due on May 15th.

Volunteers put in a new garden at Andrew Haswell Green adjacent to the big lawn area and followed the planting plan for the area. Installed two days ago with 60 volunteers.

**Item 5: Old and New Business**

Rita Popper requested that the community benefits agreement entered into for the Memorial Sloan Kettering Pavilion include funding for repairs to the East River Esplanade.

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*