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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, February 13, 2025 - 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 2: Senior Parks Feasibility Study

MINUTES

Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider*, Judy Schneider

Excused: Irma Torres*

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 25

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

Item 1: Update presentation on construction for the Davis Center (formerly Lasker Rink and Pool) at the Harlem Meer by the Central Park Conservancy and Programming.

Presentation by Diane Jackier, VP for program management for Central Park Conservatory (CPC), and Olivia Freeland, VP of Construction for CPC on the nearing completion of the Davis Center.

Olivia Freeland reviewed the objectives of the project and showed construction progress photos. She showed an image of the rink in the various seasons, in the summer it will be a pool, in the winter it will be a full-sized National Hockey League (NHL) regulated skating rink, and in the off-season, it will be a green space. The pool and rink will be named the Gottesman Rink and Pool at the Davis Center.

Leah Dan VanHorn, with Darline LaLanne, Stormy McNair, and Shatic Mitchell discussed programming in the space. The space will have diverse programming in all four seasons. It will be a community-centric operating model with free or low-cost programming providing expanded access year-round. Year one of opening will entail a wide range of activities to see what the community is more interested in. CPC will be prioritizing local hiring.

Darline LaLanne described the oval programming. The ice rink will provide more time for community recreational ice skating.

Stormy McNair discussed community engagement plans.

Shatic Mitchell discussed the restoration of the North End of the Park.

The official opening of the Davis Center is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

The times are different for each season. Please email Daviscenter@centralpark.nyc.org for more information.

The entrance is a short walk from 110th Street and Lenox Avenue. CPC is installing an accessible path from 110th Street into the building.

NYC Parks is holding tryouts now for summer lifeguards. The pool is 3 feet 8 inches deep all the way across.

The Central Park Conservancy and Programming's Davis Center Community Board presentation is linked [here](#).

Item 2: Continuation of Discussion of the concept of new park space located in the core of Community Board 8 Manhattan, presented by community resident Amy Paul.

A discussion was held in support of the proposal and questions were raised about the potential for interim actions such as using the Parks Opportunity Program (POP) if it still exists or exploring the potential to transform existing public spaces.

WHEREAS Community District 8 has the second highest number of residents in New York City aged 65 and over; and

WHEREAS 21 percent of residents of District 8 are 65 and over compared to a citywide average of 14 percent; and

WHEREAS many seniors feel isolated and lack amenities to help them stay active and healthy; and

WHEREAS parks and open spaces are vital for the health and well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS cities such as Berlin, London, and Tokyo have created dedicated senior playgrounds; and

WHEREAS public space for seniors to congregate and exercise can have significant health benefits for our aging population; and

WHEREAS parks and public spaces in our district are mostly located on the east side of the district and not in the core

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CB8 requests the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to study the feasibility of establishing parks in Community District 8 that are dedicated to the health and well-being of our senior residents in the core of our district.

Board Members Vote: 7-0-0 Farber, Hershenson, Husain, Popper, Rudder, B. Schneider*, J. Schneider

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

- Sheena noted that the city will be holding a job fair at Highbridge Park Recreation Center, at 173rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on March 12. Funding is in place to install pickleball nets in the MPPA (multi-purpose play area) in Carl Schurz Park. The date is not yet known.

Item 4: Report by Robert McLean, Parks District Manager, District 15 Esplanade, NYC Dept.

- **24 Sycamores Playground** – A community kick-off meeting is scheduled by the NYC Parks Department for March 26th at 6:30 pm to discuss the planned renovation of 24 Sycamores Playground.
- **Carl Schurz Park** – There is a problem with a person feeding pigeons in the park. The NYC Parks Department is assigning a team and staff members to clean up immediately after the bird food is spread

along the promenade. They are also going to get Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers and a Homeless Outreach team to work on this.

- **Samuel Seabury Playground** – The scaffolding from the adjacent building has not yet been removed.
- Ruppert Park and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be meeting next week to review and finalize issues with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- **St. Catherines Park** – A SWPPP will not be required. The work will be performed in stages with the ballfield first—hopefully starting in Spring of 2026.
- **Queensboro Oval** – The concessionaire will clean the oval when the weather warms up. The contract ends in 2029, and if reissued a new bubble of a different color will be put up.
- **District 15 Esplanade Sinkholes**, from 70th to 75th Street, the NYC Parks Department hired an investigator to explore the extent of the sinkholes. As part of the investigation, they found several voids using ground-penetrating radar. Test pits will be performed to determine the cause of the sinkholes.

Item 6 & 7: Old and New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

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