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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, April 10, 2025 - 6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.

MINUTES

Present: Bradley Hershenson, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Barry Schneider*, Judy Schneider, Robin Seligson, Irma Torres*

Excused: Felice Farber

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 22

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Item 1: Parks Department presentation on “Vital Parks for All” by Shena Kaufman, Districts 8 & 15 Manager.

- New York City’s parks are vital. In an era where our city is facing greater challenges than ever, learn more about how we define, measure, and invest in our parks to deliver a Vital Parks System to the New Yorkers who need it the most.
- What aspects of a Vital Parks System matter most to you? Through our Vital Parks Explorer, you can check more than 20 different elements that matter most to New Yorkers. Learn more about access to these amenities across the city, your community, and even your block.
- As part of our plan, we’ve developed a comprehensive new analysis of every park in the city and developed a score from 0 to 100 that will help you understand the recent condition of your park at a glance. You can see how Community Board 8 Manhattan parks compare to the rest of the city.
- To access the program on your computer, go to: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/vital-parks>.

Item 2: Presentation of Women’s Ball Hockey NYC, a nonprofit, at Stanley Isaacs by Marcella Coulson & Youth Coordinator, Ellie Milewski.

- Their mission is to bring people together in public spaces from 3-K to middle schoolers, as well as adults, through ball hockey. They want to empower women and create a sense of belonging.
- All that is needed is to come in sneakers, and they will supply sticks, balls, and anything else needed.

- They do community building by doing youth clinics and competitive play for adults, who are also volunteers. Youth activities are twice a month. They give away hockey sticks measured to the size of the young players.
- Coaches are certified, and the nonprofit sponsors the certification.
- Stanley Isaacs Playground has just been refurbished with a new deck and enclosed rink walls and is the only public rink like this in the city.
- They work with other community groups in the city.
- They have gotten monetary support from the New York Rangers and Islanders.
- The Parks Chairs will check if there is a time when the new rink at Harlem Meer in Central Park is available to them.

Items 3 & 4: Report by Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks, District Manager 8 and 15 and Robert Mclean, NYC Parks, Regional Manager

- As we come into the summer season ending with Labor Day, we will be fortunate enough to have 2 new park workers looking after Andrew Haswell Green Park and going north on the Esplanade. They will work from 1 to 9 pm, cleaning and picking up the litter.
- John Jay Park's women's bathroom door will start to be worked on in the next couple of weeks. It is concrete work, so it is weather-dependent.
- Ruppert Park seems to be moving in a positive direction with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Hopefully, we will have a final answer by September. We will continue to keep following this item.
- Robert's person at the Department of Transportation (DOT) on the Esplanade lighting has left, and Robert has been having trouble connecting with someone for answers.
- Committee chairs will check on the signage for the lawn at the Andrew Haswell Green Pavilion to see when children can use it and will report back.
- The opening of the diving pool at John Jay Park depends solely on the number of lifeguards the city can hire this year and assign to this park. The Davis Center pool at the Harlem Meer has been under construction for many years and is finally opening this summer. It will require many lifeguards.
- This is the month of National Pickleball. Phyllis Wallach reported that their group has secured a permit at Carl Schurz Park to do an event on April 27th, from 1 to 5 pm. They will be doing a clinic and will have giveaways, and it will be open to all. So please come and visit.
- The handball court at 96/97 Streets is being used for pickleball now, however, the court needs to be resurfaced. At this time, there is no funding for the work.
- Again, there was a complaint about the pigeons and the woman feeding them at Carl Schurz and how they are now roosting on apartment balconies. Shena is trying to work with Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers to come early, as well as with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), to see if they can get her help. There will be a report next month.
- The overhang at Brearly also has a terrible pigeon problem. We will check on how the Brearly project is coming along and report on it next month.

Item 5: Report from Co-Chair Judy Schneider on open items the committee is following:

- The Co-Chairs have been in touch with DOT and Council Member Menin's office on the 72nd Street cul-de-sac. DOT has told us this is a bridge and must stay in their control, so there can be

no Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parks Department. The Council Member has given money to DOT to fix up the area, and it is under discussion. Hopefully, we will have more info next month.

- The tennis bubble at the Queensboro Oval was finally washed. They removed all the dust, dirt, and most of the rust. Hopefully, if they do this every year, it will look much cleaner for the community.
- The Parks Department had a public meeting for the renovation of 24 Sycamore Park. They took notes on what the public would like to see. Please see the page attached to the minutes, which are quite concise. The Parks Committee would like to thank Council Member Menin for giving 3.2 million and Memorial Sloan Kettering for giving 1.14 million to make this work possible. The toilet facilities are not working. We should know more about this issue next month. Parks will be coming to the committee for comments on the renovation once the preliminary plans are completed. (Information related to the discussion is attached on page 4)

Item 6 & 7: Old and New Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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

PLAY

- Big Kid Swings
- Tire Swings
- Improve Grade Changes to Make More Room For Play
- Dedicated Play Areas for Variety of Age Groups
- Keep Play Areas for Small and Big Children Nearby With Open Sight Lines ✓
- Sandbox

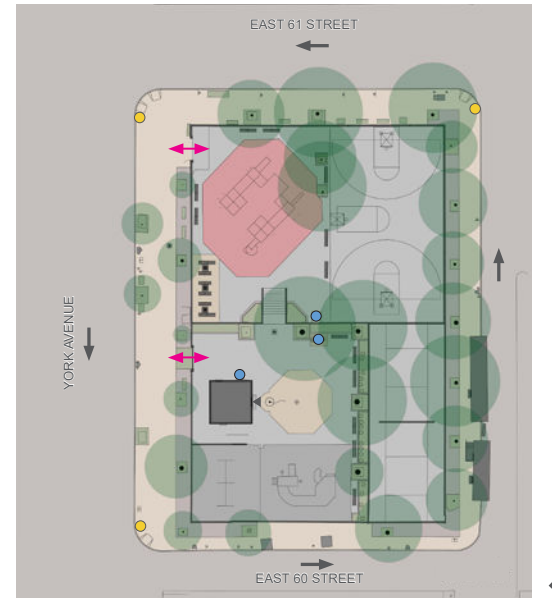
SPRAY SHOWER

- Spray shower well used. Public schools use when hot too.
- Walk-thru Sprinklers

SPORTS COURT

- Pickleball Courts ✓✓✓✓
- Management of Leaf Litter at Courts
- New Multi-Use Sports Surface
- Storage for Sports Equipment
- Dedicated line paint layout for pickleball
- Handball Courts Well Used for a Variety of Purposes-tennis, etc. Keep Handball Courts
- Keep and Expand Courts for Multi-use Sports
- Relocate Handball Wall to Create More Space
- Handball Wall in Middle Allows More Useage on Boths Sides.Also Used for Scooters.
- Sports Lighting to Play In Evening

Additional comments to be collected via online survey at nyc.gov/parks/input



PLANTING

- Plants to Help Improve the Environment
- Add More Planted Areas ✓
- Plant More Sycamores to Namesake

SEATING AREAS

- Benches at Sport Courts
- Seating Areas for Seniors
- More Tables for Families

SAFETY

- ✓ • Improve Drainage. Ponding at Playground.
- Lighting Coverage to Deter Unwated Activity
- ✓ • Consider Fence Height For Safety. Unhoused Population at Park Needs Management
- Environmental Hazard Study for Air Quality
- Improvement of Air Quality
- Improve Drainage. Ponding at Playground
- Gates That Can Be Easier To Close
- Keep Pathway to Adult Areas Out of Children Play Areas

ADULT FITNESS

- Adult Fitness Equipment
- Light Excercise Equipment for Seniors

OTHER TOPICS

- Places for Seniors to Gather
- Enlarge Site Area if Possible w/ Adjacent Property Under Bridge
- Sewer Line Repairs For Public Restroom
- Presence at Park to Get More Community Feedback
- Open Area at Andrews Haswell Green
- Additional Entrance on East Side of Park
- Time/Usage Evaluation in Park
- Ramp for Accessibility