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

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Felice Farber, Barry Schneider\*, Judy Schneider, Sahar Husain

**Excused:** Barbara Rudder, Irma Torres\*

*\*Public Member*

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees:** 10

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

**Item 1: Update from Muslim Volunteers 4 NY by Mubeen Siddiqui and their May 17 program at Ruppert Park**

The Muslim Volunteers 4 New York (MV4NY) is celebrating its 10 years of service. One of the founders at MV4NY, Mubeen Siddiqui, reviewed the core community platforms of the organization, which include environmental stewardship and park beautification. In 2017, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (Parks Department) appointed MV4NY as a partnering steward of Ruppert Park, which requires 2 semi-annual park beautifications and clean-up projects. They have held 16 events in Ruppert Park since their organization's appointment.

MV4NY advocates for parks in general, in addition to their support of Ruppert Park. To date, 1,684 volunteers have committed 5,043 hours of service to Ruppert Park and have planted between 1,500-3,000 plants at each event, with an average of 2,500 plants each time.

MV4NY has recently engaged in beautification events at John Jay Park and 24 Sycamores Park.

The annual Spring Clean-Up and Park Beautification for Ruppert Park is scheduled for May 17th, 2025, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and the rain date for this event is Sunday, May 18th. Registration is required in order to participate in the event, and the link for registering is attached [here](#).

**Item 2: Update on activities by Friends of the East River Esplanade by Executive Director Ashanique Rodriguez**

Board Chair Jennifer Ratner provided an overview and history of the Friends of the East River Esplanade and discussed the types of programs and advocacy of the group. She noted that Friends of the East River Esplanade have been around for 10 years.

She reviewed some of the upcoming free events:

- Friends of the East River Esplanade in 2025 will have live music events for the spring, summer, and early fall at the Andrew Haswell Green Pavilion:
  - EsplanadeFriends X IronStrength on May 21st and July 30th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, registration required.
  - Live Music Event consisting of Samba with Embola Carambola ft. Maya Sol on June 7th, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
  - NYC Puppet Mobile, July 27th.
- Partnering with the National Audubon Society to offer bird walks.
- Environmental Education event & Birding event, September 20th & September 21st.
- Friends of the East River Esplanade provide advocacy for the waterfront and the esplanade.
- Find out more information on EsplanadeFriends.org and on Instagram. [Friends of the East River Esplanade](#).

### **Item 3: Report by Robert Mclean, NYC Parks, Regional Manager**

#### **Carl Schurz Park**

- Took care of the homeless encampment.
- Family Fun Day, May 17th, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- New pickleball nets installed.
- “Bird Lady” was given a summons.
- The Parks Department was thanked for installing a permanent pickleball net at Carl Schurz Park. However, Phillis Wallach noted that a chain link fence between the pickleball and basketball courts was installed and later taken down the following day. Robert Mclean confirmed that the chain link fence was taken down and will follow up on the reasoning for its removal.

#### **John Jay Park**

- Family Fun Day, May 31st, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

#### **Andrew Haswell Green (AHG) Park**

- Looking at the lawn opening in the park more than 2 days a week.
- A community member commented that the water was not on at AHG Park, in the gardens, or in the dog run area. Robert Mclean noted that the irrigation was just turned on today.

#### **Ruppert Park**

- They hope to have the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) approved by September, then the project can go out to bid.

#### **East River Esplanade**

- Bids are due May 22nd for Phase 3 of the East River Esplanade. Phase 3 includes repairs at East 62nd Street and East 63rd Street, East 76th Street to East 80th Street, and East 90th Street to East 94th Street.
- Question: When will Phase 2 start?

### **Item 4: Pictures of the completed work at Central Parks - Davis Center and Delacorte Theater**

Community Board Member Judy Schneider commented about the positive articles on the [Davis Center](#) and [Delacorte Theater](#), while Community Associate Jon Kraus showed photos of both park projects.

## **Items 5 & 6: Old and New Business**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

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