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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Roosevelt Island Committee
Monday, December 1, 2025 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom**

MINUTES:

Present: Paul Krikler, Jams Starace*, and Todd Stein.

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 43

Item 1 – RIOC Update

Bryant Daniels introduced himself and mentioned the upcoming Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5th at 6 PM.

Item 2 – Library Updates (4:37)

Paul Krikler introduced Librarian Kate Federiconi with the Library Update.

- The NYPL Best Books of 2025 List is out. Unlimited digital access for 25 titles on the list through Dec 31.
- Events:
 - Native Plants and Forest Gardens for Food, Medicine, Habitat, and Craft with iDig2Learn and The Battery Conservancy - Monday, December 8th at 6 PM.
 - Winter Lights with Rachael Harrington on Monday, December 29 at 10:15 AM.
 - Upgrades to RI library, including revamped teen area and rearrangement of existing collection.

Item 3 – Community Updates (6:11)

- Frank Farance of The Roosevelt Island Residents Association
 - Emergency Preparedness Meeting this Thursday at 8PM – The topic is holiday décor.
- Judy Berdy of The Roosevelt Island Historical Society
 - Will be present at 2 upcoming holiday sales:
 - This Saturday at 546 Main Street
 - RIDA Sale next Saturday
 - Demonstration and Discussion of Matcha Teas and Celebration by RIHS on Thursday, December 11th, from 5-9PM at Blackwell House

Item 4 – The Next Chapter for Roosevelt Island

Speakers: BJ Jones (RIOC CEO), Betsy Jones (Assistant VP at EDC)

- BJ explained the guiding principles, planning process, early engagement, and potential outcomes. Significant development was the Master lease extension of an additional 10 years.
- Betsy explained EDC's role in the process, including community engagement.
- The community raised questions and concerns regarding: site selection, scope and funding of remediation, necessity of full demolition of sites, removal of demolished materials by barge vs. truck, loss of homes for Coler residents, loss of green space, overcrowding, additional pressure on an already stressed transit system, and other community resources.
- More engagement sessions are planned for 2026

Item 5 – Felicia Ruff, RIRA VP - Foodtown Price Gouging

- Foodtown is the primary source of groceries for island residents - effectively a monopoly. Senior and disabled residents are disproportionately affected by high prices and low-quality/unsafe food.
- Request for Foodtown to:
 - Stop price gouging and align with NYC averages
 - Remove expired products from shelves immediately and improve quality control.

Item 6 – Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 7 – New Business

Chair Paul Krikler announced there will be no January 2026 Roosevelt Island Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Paul Krikler, Chair, Roosevelt Island Committee