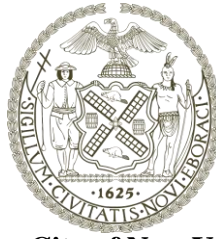


Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

Ian McKnight  
District Manager



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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

May 28, 2026

Tricia Shimamura  
Commissioner  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY 10065

Elizabeth W. Smith  
President & CEO  
Central Park Conservancy  
717 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

**RE: Approval of the East Side at 75th Street Conservatory Water Basin, Accessible Pathwork, and Boathouse Restoration proposal**

Dear Commissioner Shimamura and President & CEO Smith,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 20, 2026, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS** the Central Park Conservancy proposes to rebuild the Conservatory Water Basin, provide Accessible Paths, and restore the Boathouse; and

**WHEREAS** the three goals of the conceptual design are to rehabilitate the building exterior, basin, and landscape; provide access for all visitors on site and within the building; and strengthen the environmental performance of the building, basin, and landscape; and

**WHEREAS** the basin has three generations of construction and three types of construction; and

**WHEREAS** the basin leaks and it is difficult to maintain a water level that can support the sailing of boats, a tradition that harks back to the initial construction of the basin; and

**WHEREAS** the basin will be rebuilt with the historic shape and granite coping to match the existing coping; and

**WHEREAS** the surrounding landscape will be rejuvenated with new planting; and

**WHEREAS** an accessible path with handrails will be created from the East 76th Street entrance to the park with flat areas that will provide places to pause and/or facilitate transitions within the sloped pathway; and

**WHEREAS** the sandbox will be rebuilt with an accessible seat; and

**WHEREAS** all accretions will be removed from the original boathouse structure; and

**WHEREAS** the exterior of the boathouse will be fully restored including the copper roof and brick masonry with limestone trim; and

**WHEREAS** new energy-efficient windows to match the historic windows will be installed; and

**WHEREAS** new wings will be built to the north and south in brick masonry and limestone; and

**WHEREAS** the southern wing will contain new men's and women's accessible restrooms; and

**WHEREAS** the northern wing will contain the concession; and

**WHEREAS** both wings extend to the east creating a courtyard that will be landscaped and contain new mechanical equipment for an all-electric system for heating and air conditioning; and

**WHEREAS** the courtyard will be enclosed with a wire mesh fence; and

**WHEREAS** the new wings will have "green" roofs; and

**WHEREAS** the reconstruction of the basin will be historically correct; and

**WHEREAS** areas of landscape and hardscape will be fully accessible; and

**WHEREAS** the new wings for the boathouse will be compatible with and defer to the historic structure; and

**WHEREAS** this conceptual design, when realized, will provide a renewed basin, building, and landscape that are true to the history of the place and accommodating to all visitors;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this conceptual design is **APPROVED** by and **SUPPORTED** by Community Board 8 as presented.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason*

*Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, and Judith Schneider*

Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, and Judith Schneider  
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Steve Simon, Chief of Staff to the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation  
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State  
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Julie Menin, Speaker, NYC Council, 5th Council District  
Honorable Virginia Maloney, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Elsie Encarnacion, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District  
Diane Jackier, Vice President for Program Management, Central Park Conservancy  
Nick Koster, Vice President for Design, Central Park Conservancy  
Sandy Huber, Senior Vice President for Capital Projects, Central Park Conservancy