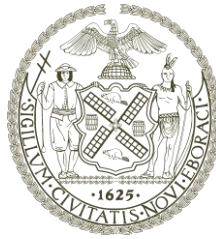


Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager



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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 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: Approval of the East Side at 75th Street Conservatory Water Basin, Accessible Pathwork, and Boathouse Restoration proposal

MINUTES

Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Felice Farber, David Helpern, Bradley Hershenson, John McClement, Rita Popper*, Judy Schneider, and Elaine Wrightman*.

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 24

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

Item 1: Presentation on the installation of cameras at the Esplanade in the Sixties by Police Officer Brian Larkin

Officer Larkin presented plans for the installation of security cameras along the East River Esplanade in the East 60s. Five camera units equipped with pan-tilt-zoom capabilities will provide coverage at entrances, ramps, stairways, tunnel areas, and portions of the promenade. A sixth camera location near the East 63rd Street bridge crossing remains under review pending installation of a taller pole capable of supporting the equipment.

Committee members discussed funding possibilities for the additional pole installation. The cameras are anticipated to be installed by the end of the month. Community members expressed support for the project and emphasized the need for improved security and monitoring along the Esplanade.

Item 2: Conservatory Water Basin, and Boathouse Restoration by the Central Park Conservancy, presented by Senior Vice President for Capital Projects Sandy Huber, Vice President for Design Nick Koster, and Vice President for Program Management Diane Jackier.

Representatives from the Central Park Conservancy presented plans for the restoration of Conservatory Water, the Curbs Boathouse, and portions of the surrounding landscape in Central Park ([Presentation](#)).

The proposed project includes restoration and reconstruction of the leaking basin walls and floor, accessibility upgrades to paths and seating areas, restoration of the historic boathouse exterior, reconfiguration of restroom and concession areas, installation of all-electric building systems, addition of green roof features, and landscape restoration improvements.

David Helpern, Chair of the Landmarks Committee, expressed strong support for the proposal and praised the historic preservation approach and architectural quality of the design. Public comments included discussion regarding sandbox maintenance, landscape upkeep, bird-safe glazing materials, and construction timing.

The Conservancy stated that basin work is expected to begin in Fall 2026, with boathouse construction anticipated in 2027 and reopening projected for Spring/Summer 2028.

Resolution: East Side at 75th Street Conservatory Water Basin, Accessible Pathwork, and Boathouse Restoration (Central Park Conservancy) – *Senior Vice President for Capital Projects Sandy Huber, Vice President for Design Nick Koster, and Vice President for Program Management Diane Jackier* – A restoration of the Conservatory Water Basin, Accessible Pathwork, and Boathouse in Central Park

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.

Board Member Vote: 7-0-0 Ashby, Helpert, Hershenson, Schneider, McClement, Popper*, Wrightman*

Item 3: Report by Robert McLean, NYC Parks, Regional Manager

Regional Manager Robert McLean was unable to attend the meeting.

Item 4: Report by Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks, District Manager 8 & 15

Shena Kaufman provided updates regarding several parks and waterfront projects within the district. Additional cleaning services were approved for portable restroom facilities at 24 Sycamore Park while permanent restrooms remain out of service. Bids for Ruppert Park improvements have been accepted. Portions of the East River Esplanade between East 93rd and East 96th Streets will temporarily close, beginning May 26, to address sinkhole and shoreline repairs, with work anticipated to last approximately four weeks.

A constituent by the name of Margaret Dornbaum presented a preliminary concept proposal for a seasonal ice-skating rink over the John Jay Park swimming pool during the winter months. Shena stated that the John Jay Park pool was not designed for such use and indicated that the proposal was not

currently considered feasible at that location. Alternative possibilities, including areas near Stanley Isaacs and East 96th Street facilities, were discussed for future exploration.

Community members raised additional concerns regarding ongoing security and quality of life issues along the East River Esplanade, camera placement and coverage areas, Carl Schurz Park multipurpose play area renovations, and potential outdoor skating facilities within the district.

Shena Kaufman stated that Carl Schurz Park MPPA renovations remain planned, though no construction timeline is currently available. Shena also mentioned that regarding camera/pole installation, she could place a request with the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) to install the necessary pole near the esplanade.

Item 5: Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 6: New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

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