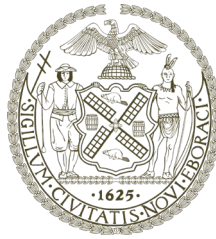


Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

Ian McKnight  
District Manager



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
*Parks and Waterfront Committee*  
*Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 6:30PM*  
*Conducted remotely on Zoom*

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Rita Popper\*, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider, Elaine Wrightman\*

\* *Public Member*

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 19**

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

**Item 1: Updates from the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) on the Kellen Tower and Esplanade, presented by Amy Nunziata and Jack Wong**

Jack Wong provided an update on the project. He noted that the work on the four sinkholes has been repaired.

The work on the 71st Street bridge and the area near it has been completed and will be opened to the public on Monday June 15th.

Anticipate the Esplanade work from 71st to 72nd to open in July.

HSS will be painting the Con Edison building beige and will be installing landscaping and irrigation, as well as new pavers near the building. A federal DOT-approved moveable crash barrier will be installed to separate the esplanade from the FDR drive.

The 78th Street bridge will be closed in July to allow HSS to complete the rest of the work in that area. The beautification work from 72nd-78th is projected to be completed by October.

Beginning June 15, construction fencing will be relocated to the 71st Street side and gradually move northward as work progresses. The full length of the Esplanade is expected to reopen upon completion of the project in October.

**Item 2: Report by Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks, District Manager 8 & 15**

Ms. Kaufman announced that the contract for the renovation of Ruppert Park has been awarded. The contract has been awarded to PMY Contracting Corporation of Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

She will provide additional information regarding the construction schedule once it becomes available.

She also provided an update on Esplanade reconstruction work between 93rd and 94th Streets, noting that the project is expected to be completed in July, at which time the area will reopen to the public.

Ms. Kaufman reminded attendees that the John Jay Park Pool is scheduled to open on June 27.

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

Robert reported on volunteer efforts to remove weeds and plant new vegetation along the Esplanade.

**Item 4: Old Business**

No items of Old Business were discussed.

**Item 5: New Business**

No items of New Business were discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

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