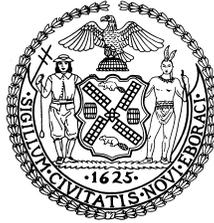


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
331 East 70th Street (First-Second)
Auditorium
Thursday, June 2, 2016, 6:30 PM

CB8M members in attendance: Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Sharon Pope, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder Barry Schneider, Tricia Shimamura.

Public member present: Judy Schneider

Excused: Scott Falk, Sophia James

1. Review of plans for the remodeling of the comfort station at 24 Sycamores Playground.

Parks Dept. architects presented plans for the reconstruction of the comfort station at 24 Sycamores Playground, a park located at York Avenue, between 60th Street and 61st Street.

As explained, this aging facility is one of the few remaining features of the playground, which was built in the 1940s. This heavily used comfort station is one of the few such public facilities in the vicinity. City funds have been allocated to upgrade it and make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Key elements of the redesign include: larger cubicles for toilets (expanded from 75 square feet to 86 square feet), hollow metal doors; windows with perforated steel security screens; and an aluminum roof. However, these renovations will not change the overall configuration of the present comfort station.

Other associated improvements to the park will include new pavers, fencing, resurfacing under the swings, repairs to the base of the flag pole and ground regrading.

Construction is set to begin in early 2018. Project completion is expected within another 18 months.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the heavily used comfort station at 24 Sycamores Playground is an aging facility in need of restoration and remodeling to make it complaint with the Americans With Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. has proposed an array of needed improvements to the park's comfort station and area immediately around it; and

WHEREAS specific upgrades to the comfort station include: larger cubicles for toilets (expanded from 75 square feet to 86 square feet); hollow metal doors; windows with perforated steel security screens; an aluminum roof; and removing paint from, and repointing, the building's masonry; and

WHEREAS improvements to the area around the comfort station include: installing new asphalt pavers to replace the present concrete surfacing; replacing the fence near the swings; replacing the nozzle on the water spray; repairing the base of the flag pole; updating the protective surfacing under the swings; and regrading the landscape to create a barrier-free design; and,

WHEREAS these proposed upgrades aim to make the park more accessible to all interested users; therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M approves of the Parks Dept.'s proposed renovations at 24 Sycamores Playground, including the remodeling of its comfort station and the improvements to the park's surrounding landscape, pavement, fencing and flag pole base.

VOTE: 7-0-0

In favor: Daniel Dornbaum, Susan Evans, Rita Popper, Peggy Price, Barry Schneider, Trisha Shimamura
Public Member: Judy Schneider

2. Final Planning for the June 25 Queensboro Oval Rally

Committee members finalized activities for the upcoming Queensboro Oval gathering-- and discussed ways to continue publicizing the event.

Sponsored by CB8M, this gathering will be held Saturday, June 25, from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Queensboro Oval Park, located at York Ave. and 59th St. The event aims to draw wide public support for CB8's efforts to make this largely privatized park open to the public full-time.

To draw a sizable audience, the rally will include various attractions, among them: a 5-piece live band, free raffles of sports equipment, a clown and face painter for children and featured speakers.

Expected speakers at the gathering include Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Council Member Ben Kallos. Several other elected officials have said they would like to attend if their schedule permits it.

Other expected speakers will include an official of New Yorkers for Parks, some area residents and sports enthusiasts.

As discussed, this month, the committee will continue publicizing the event, using Facebook Twitter, e-blasts of flyers and contacts with the media. Flyers for the rally are also being distributed at public events and given to building managers and residents in the Queensboro Oval area. Already, the committee has provided Save the Date flyers to all public schools in the area.

At the event, attendees will be asked to sign petitions calling for the City to Open the Oval.

Old Business

Update on the East River Esplanade Project

Construction of the East River Esplanade's 81st St. bridge is underway, a committee member reported. However, as a possible change to plans, the City is now considering moving the ADA-accessible ramp leading to John Finley Walk from the end of E. 81st St. to the ends of East 82 and E. 83rd streets.

Materials to be used on the ramp and bridge: CB8M had passed a resolution urging the City to use glass siding for this scenic area. As of now, glass will be used for the wall at the southern end of John Finley Walk, where the elevated portion of the Esplanade ends. But siding of the bridge to the ramp, and the ramp itself, will consist of wire mesh. Potentially, this wire mesh could be replaced by glass—although that is not currently being considered.

**Susan Evans and Margaret Price
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee**