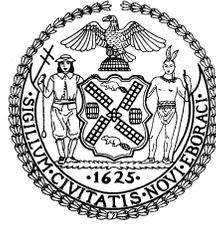


James G. Clynes
Chairman

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue
Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Marymount Manhattan College
221 East 71st Street (Second-Third)
Regina Peruggi Room
Thursday, December 8, 2016, 6:30 PM

CB8M members in attendance: Susan Evans, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura.

Excused: Daniel Dornbaum, Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Public Member Judy Schneider

1. Plans for the Renovation of the East River Esplanade between East 88 and East 90th streets.

Officials of NYC's Parks Dept. presented a 4-point proposal for the renovation of the East River Esplanade between East 88-90th streets on the Esplanade.

This portion of the renovation work is part of Phase One of the City's renovation plans for the Esplanade on the Upper East Side. Other parts of Phase One, which the City deems "high urgency" repair sites, include work at East 114th St and at East 117th on the Esplanade.

The main repairs and improvements proposed for the Esplanade between East 88-90th streets: reconstruction and stabilization of the sea wall; replacement of benches; replacement of the railing along the sea wall; and the installation of new plantings and pavement in the seating area to differentiate that section from the portion of the walkway used by walkers and cyclists.

In the later case, Parks Dept. officials noted that in this 88-90th streets area, a large part of the Esplanade slopes downward, from 26 feet to 8 feet in elevation. In this sloped section, Parks Dept. officials believe that providing a defined seating area would better protect people seated on the benches. To create this distinct seating area, the Parks Dept. proposes using concrete blocks as pavers—instead of the asphalt that's used on the walkway portion of the Esplanade—and planting about 22 flowering trees behind the benches.

In addition, the Parks Dept. will install new 1939 World's Fair-style benches in this area. But it will replace the 4-foot railing at the water's edge with the S-shaped railings used further south on the Esplanade.

The project also involves removing four trees that are seen as unstable or unhealthy.

If the 88-90th streets project obtains all needed approvals, renovation will begin by next summer and may take roughly a year to complete. During this construction, the City will close this section of the Esplanade.

Among meeting attendees, one main point of discussion centered on the unique type of paving proposed for the seating area. As some attendees pointed out, the proposed blocks would be inconsistent with materials used

elsewhere on the Esplanade. And their use could be unnecessary, since the Parks Dept. also plans to use an array of new small trees to help define the seating area.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the NYC Parks Dept. has embarked on a much-needed program of structural repairs to the deteriorated East River Esplanade on Manhattan’s Upper East Side; and

WHEREAS the City has deemed improvements to the East River Esplanade in the East 88th-East 90th streets area to be a high priority, given the poor condition of parts of the sea wall in this area; and

WHEREAS proposed renovations in the East 88-90th streets area of the Esplanade include: reconstruction and stabilization of the sea wall; installation of a new S-shaped railing at the water’s edge; replacement of existing benches; and the installation of new and different plantings and pavement in the seating area to distinguish that section from the Esplanade’s main walkway; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan approves of the NYC Parks Dept.’s plans for the renovation of the East River Esplanade between 88th and 90th streets.

VOTE: 6-0-0

In favor: Susan Evans, Sophia James, Sharon Pope, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura.

2. Update on the Status of the Queensboro Oval

It was reported that, on December 16, Parks Commissioner Silver will convene a second meeting with elected officials and CB8M reps on the Parks Dept.’s plans for the Queensboro Oval Park.

The first of these meetings was held in late September. At that time, the commissioner put a “pause” on plans to issue an RFP for another licensee for the Oval after the City’s license with the current occupant expires next August.

At the December meeting, the commissioner may announce more definitive plans for the Oval. Should these diverge from CB8M’s position—that the Oval should be returned to the public year-round, starting in September 2017—the Parks Committee plans to object firmly. And at its January meeting, the Committee will determine what follow-ups steps to take to deprivatize the Oval.

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