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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Parks and Waterfront Committee Meeting**  
New York Blood Center  
December 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.*

**MINUTES**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Sophia James, Craig Lader, Greg Kirschenbaum, Rita Popper, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Judy Schneider, Irma Torres

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Alexandra Harrington, Sharon Pope-Marshall

**1. East Harlem Resiliency Presentation by Alda Chan, Project Administrator for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks Department) and Julia Eickerman, Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR)**

Alda Chan from NYC Parks Department gave a presentation on the East Harlem Resiliency study which was started in 2018. The project sought to develop a vision plan for a more resilient East Harlem community, with a study area spanning from 154<sup>th</sup> Street to 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, from Fifth Avenue to the East River. Craig Lader represented CB8 at various taskforce meetings during the study.

Ms. Chan reviewed various ongoing safety and resiliency concerns for this area, including sea level rise, heat waves, rain events, and storm surges. She presented historical maps demonstrating the structural vulnerabilities of the area and noted concerns with flooding, limitations of sewage infrastructure, and a low-lying esplanade/waterfront that can be extremely at risk when facing sea level rise and frequent storms. Although the Parks Department and ORR are still forming its finalized list of recommendations in the form of a Vision Plan, Ms. Chan did identify several proposed ideas to improve resiliency in the area, including:

- "Green Corridors" along key streets that increase water absorption
- Evaluation and improvements of storm sewers and other infrastructure systems to reduce street flooding
- Elevation of the bulkheads and esplanade areas that are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and storms
- Increase water absorption in public spaces (e.g. Parks and NYCHA) through additional plantings and installation of materials that can also address extreme heat

Members of the Committee and community asked Ms. Chan several questions about expanding the study area to include more of CB8, as well as making additional recommendations for infrastructure improvements along Second Avenue. Ms. Chan agreed to come back to the Committee once the Vision Plan was published to discuss possible next steps. The Vision Plan is scheduled to be released by Winter 2018 or early 2019.

**2. Discussion of 599-529 East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Plaza/Cul-de-sac**

Members of the community stated repairs were needed to the park benches and the cobble stones and the trees need to be looked at, as some may need replacement.

Two questions were raised:

- A. Who initially installed the Plaza, and do they still have a responsibility for maintaining it?
- B. Who currently owns the property belong? NYC DP&R claims it is not their property but maybe a MOU could be worked out with them for the upkeep. The NYC DOT says it is not their property-but this probably has to be researched more.

Wes Hamilton, of Parks, volunteered to look into the tree issue and report back to the committee.

**RESOLUTION:** The Parks Committee of CB8 recommends that Parks Department evaluate the trees and benches located at the East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street cul-de-sac and report back to the CB8 Parks Committee with the understanding that the Committee will continue to research who is responsible for this property.

**Approved Board Members:** (7-0-0) James, Lader, Kirschenbaum, Popper, Rudder, Shimamura, B. Schneider

**Approved Public Members:** J. Schneider, Torres

**3. Further Discussion of Dog Forum on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the NY Blood Center**

The Committee reviewed the agenda and the panelists for the event. The format will follow that of the of the NYC Parks 2018 Forum on Dogs in Parks of April 14, 2018. Speaker will include representatives of the Urban Park Service, the NYC Parks Enforcement Patrol, Partnership for Parks and the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

**4. Report on Tramway Park**

Tram elevator project update – “RIOC has received a ‘Letter of No Impact’ from NYCTA and now we can move forward with boring test into bedrock. We are currently scheduling this work for next week. Once we receive the boring test data we can determine if we need to make any changes to the structural foundation design to move forward. Prince Shah, LEED Green Assoc. Project Manager.”

- 5. Wes Hamilton, NYC DP&R,** reported there was a very high volume of 3-1-1 call about down trees and tree limbs during our last storm. Also, some fencing had been removed at John Jay Park when you come in the park, toward the right.

**6. Old/New Business**

Suggestion was made that at a future meeting we have Trees NY speak about Tree Pruning.

There being no Old or New Business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Tricia Shimamura and M. Barry Schneider**  
**Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee**