Environment, Open Space, & Parks Committee  
Thursday, January 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.  
Board Office

*** MINUTES ***

Present: Diane Collier, Jessica Elliott, Jada Heredia, Frances Mastrota, Malik McCullough, Jessica Morris, Russel Shuler, Carly Wine (staff)

Absent: Ryan Sheffield

Excused: David Giordano

Guests: Zach Cassidy, Waterfront Alliance; Maggie Flanagan, Waterfront Alliance; Alda Chan, NYC Parks; Lia Soorenian, NYC Parks; Dave Salerno, NYC Parks/RIPA; Paul Tropea, ERC; Sarah Neilson, NYC Parks; Connie Lee, MGPA; Mary Nell Hawk, East River Crew; Jordan Salinger, Mayor’s Office; Patricia Matzenbacher, East River Crew; Raymond P. Lewis, RPL Associates; Philip Yee, Village Community Bathhouse; Tineta Newton

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Frances Mastrota at 6:30 PM. The motion to adopt the meeting agenda was made by Jessica Morris and seconded by Jessica Elliott.

2. Announcements

3. Informational updates (20 minutes)
   a. Randall’s Island Park Alliance: Davide Salerno reported on the success of LuminoCity. Additionally, RIPA received a grant for a nature center in the park.
   b. Marcus Garvey Park: Connie Lee informed the committee that MGPA submitted the Fire Watchtower at Marcus Garvey Park for an award that would provide the group with an endowment for maintenance.

4. Presentations & Discussions
   a. Update on the East Harlem Resiliency Plan – Alda Chan, NYC Parks

   Ms. Alda Chan updated the committee on the Vision Plan for a Resilient East Harlem,
which identifies a set of future recommendations, ranging from neighborhood-level infrastructure projects to open space improvements and community programs that can help the community adapt and mitigate future risks to climate change. The recommendations are grouped into 3 categories: managing stormwater, creating resilient public spaces, and adapting the waterfront.

b. Presentation of plan for new publicly accessible boating infrastructure at Randall’s Island and East 96th Street – Karen Imas, Waterfront Alliance

On behalf of Waterfront Alliance, Ms. Karen Imas presented on the plan to develop designs for publicly-accessible waterfront human-powered boating infrastructure at East 96th Street and Randall’s Island. The group is applying for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation/Hudson River Estuary Program Grant to help fund the design phase. Waterfront Alliance requested ideas from the committee about how to best support and implement more human-powered boating in East Harlem.


Mr. Raymond Lewis presented the Harlem Eat Up!2020 (HEU) Food Festival to the committee. This will be the sixth year of HEU, however it will be the first time the festival is held in Marcus Garvey Park. The event is expected to occur between May 11 and May 17, 2020. Mr. Lewis will be back to present on the event set-up and stakeholder feedback in February.

5. New Business

6. Old Business

   a. The committee is working on our 2020 mission and goals in the board member sandbox, and will continue to advocate for the renaming of Harlem Greenway Link to Richard Toussaint Park.

7. Adjournment

   The motion to adjourn was made by Frances Mastrota and seconded by Jessica Elliott.