



HRPK Advisory Group

HRPK Friends Advocacy Update

Tuesday, February 9, 2020

1. [Thank you Madelyn!](#) Hudson River Park Friends wants to give an enormous & heartfelt thank you to Madelyn Wils, President and CEO of Hudson River Park Trust, for a decade of leadership and public service. After 10 incredibly successful years, our beloved iconic waterfront park is on its way to completion. Her many accomplishments, her leadership and work with her great team—you can see for yourselves as you stroll through our beautiful Park.

From the Community Composting project to the completion of Pier 26 to the rehabilitation of the Pier 40 fields, Madelyn has shown her love of the Park through her hard work and dedication. The completion of HRPK is on the horizon after 20 years, and all New Yorkers and visitors will benefit from Madelyn's work with Hudson River Park, one of New York's green treasures.

The success of our Park include the Pier 40 air rights sale to repair the piles, the Pier 26 opening and the exquisite award-winning design, the upcoming construction of Gansevoort Peninsula and Pier 97, redevelopment of Pier 57, Pier 55/Little Island, Chelsea Waterside Park play area and redesign, sustainability initiatives like Park Over Plastic, continuing the work of the River Project and the vast expansion of marine science and STEM education programs in the Park, and more.

We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her steadfast partnership with Friends.

[Letter from Friends attached.](#)

2. [Rest in Peace Ross Graham.](#) A hero of our Park & community. As many of you know, Ross passed away last week. She was a Chelsea icon and founding mother of Hudson River Park. Ross was a member of the Hudson River Park Conservancy (predecessor to the Hudson River Park Trust).

Ross became a founding member of the Friends of Hudson River Park, after the Hudson River Park Act was passed. Using her decades of experience she gained in the halls of Albany as the Chief of Staff to State Senator Ohrenstein, she was a passionate advocate for Hudson River Park.

Ross was also a longtime member and leader of Community Board 4. Hudson River Park Friends joins many friends and admirers in remembering and thanking Ross for her wisdom, humor and devotion to the Park and our city.

Some of Ross' amazing bio (source: Obituary by Pam Fredrick): "After a childhood spent in Williamstown, MA, and West Chester, PA, Ms. Graham attended Tufts University, and worked as a journalist in the Rust Belt of Pennsylvania. She came to New York in the early 1960s inspired by the Reform Democrats and Eleanor Roosevelt and began a political career here that focused on women's rights, human and civil rights, tenant rights and historic preservation."

"She spent 20 years working for State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, becoming the first woman to be a major Albany staffer and his chief of staff when he became minority leader in 1975. She often noted that she was at one time the highest paid woman in Albany and one of the first to wear pants on the floor of the Senate Chamber. She also helped organize the New York State Women's Political Caucus and Eleanor's List, which raised funds for women candidates."

"In her retirement, she was appointed to the Commission for the Restoration of the Capitol and became an influential member of Manhattan's Community Board 4, serving from 1986 to 1997. It was there that she led efforts to protect the low-rise character of Chelsea and became a leading voice for the creation of Hudson River Park. She would be appointed to the Hudson River Park Conservancy in 1996 and three years later was a founder of the Friends of Hudson River Park. "

The family asks that donations in her honor be made to Hudson River Park Friends.

3. Parks & Open Space NY Coalition: NID/BID Panel. HRPK Friends will have a discussion with other NYC open space and park organizations considering or taking part in the formation of a BID/PID. Friends will share their experience attempting to implement a NID, the challenges, costs and lessons learned.

4. Volunteer program

See below for our tentative Green Team schedule.

HRPK Friends is currently planning the 2021 season for the Volunteer Program with the first Green Team project in April. Please reach out early to reserve a spot, group sizes will be limited due to COVID. See below for our preliminary schedule - *dates are subject to change*. Email volunteer@hudsonriverpark.org for more info.

Starting in February we will welcome Compost Facilitators to assist with processing food scraps during business hours, weather permitting. For those interested in lending a hand, email volunteer@hudsonriverpark.org for the required forms and fill out the [2021 Community Compost Scheduling Survey](#).

HRPK Friends is offering Virtual Engagement Opportunities for Corporate Members throughout the upcoming season. Potential projects include translation of online curricula, focus groups and data entry. We are also exploring a Virtual Speaker Series where employees and their families

can learn about HRPK topics through interactive discussions and activities. For more information on Virtual Corporate opportunities, email corporate@hudsonriverpark.org.

2021 HRPK Green Team Volunteer Dates

April 10th

Earth Day: April 24th

ILMPD: May 1st

May 22nd

Family Day: June 5th

*June 12th (tentative project/rain make-up)

June 26th

July 17th

July 24th

August 7th

August 21th

September 18th

October 2nd

*October 16th (tentative project/rain make up)

November 6th

December 4th or 11th

5. [Pier 76/Tow Pound](#): As many of you have read in the press, NYPD tow operations at Pier 76 have stopped. [NYPD Vacates Hell's Kitchen Tow Pound, Opening Up Pier 76 | Midtown, NY Patch](#)
The Trust is working on an interim public access plan.