

**Hudson River Park Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 13, 2021**

**Hudson River Park Advisory Council Chair Jeffrey LeFrancois started the meeting at 6:05pm and the minutes from the March 2021 meeting were approved with a revision to a Port of San Diego expenditure reference.**

**State Parks Commissioner Eric Kulleseid was the Advisory Council's first speaker. Commissioner Kulleseid spoke glowingly about Pier 76 and the new park being constructed there as a result of vacating NYPD's tow pound, which exited the pier at the end of January 2021. They were supposed to vacate by December 2020. There is lead paint at Pier 76 and new asphalt will it. Limited hazardous cleanup is expected for the temporary use and the project is currently in de-construction mode. The renderings of the new park show a lot of steel columns but in actuality it is a vast open space. Pier 76 is scheduled to open June 1, 2021. Simple lighting will be included for initial phases and longer term uses will be under review and put in place over time. The current use is temporary.**

**Questions regarding the toxicity of the deck and a complete hazardous review were asked. Fresh asphalt is being laid down so that should mitigate the toxicity, was the answer. A request for more studies was raised.**

**A question was asked, "What will happen to the Future of Pier 40 Working Group given previous discussions related to Pier 76 and Pier 40 previously involved a holistic approach to the redesign of both. The response: conversations were interrupted by COVID and will pick up again.**

**The pier has 6500 wooden piles. Marine boors get at them. A lot of work to do before renovation can happen.**

**Regarding Pier 76, the public will be able to use the space and the project has moved at lightning speed. It moved so quickly that the HRP Board has yet to discuss Pier 76. The transformation is happening very fast. You are going to see a lot of interesting photography at Pier 76.**

**Other questions involved the expulsion of Classic Car Club. Car Club would count as part of 50% footprint of commercial, as pier is slated for 50 public use 50 commercial.**

**The next topic involved the ESMP process and Sanctuary Management Plan.**

**In the chat, the following was posted from the 2013 legislation:**

**The city of New York shall promptly convey to the trust a possessory interest in Pier 76 consistent with such interest previously conveyed with respect to other portions of the park, provided that at least fifty percent of the Pier 76 footprint shall be used for park uses that are limited to passive and active open space and which shall be contiguous to water and provided further that the remaining portion shall be for park/commercial use. Upon such conveyance, Pier 76 shall become part of the park."**

**Surcharge project under way at Gansevoort. Soil is being added to the Gansevoort ball field with a 10 foot mound of dirt. It will eventually compact and settle into a hard flat surface. Whitney will complete David Hammonds sculpture project in early May. Expect a community celebration to unveil the work mid May. (Note: sculpture is now fully complete and the Whitney held the opening).**

**Pier 55 is nearing completion. NYS is permitting the area. Little Island is racing along to get it all finished in time for opening in May. (Note: Little Island is currently open and timed tickets are available online via the [LittleIsland.org](http://LittleIsland.org) website between the hours of 12p and 10p.)**

**HRP Board approved a contract for a shade structure. Contracts also out for development of Pier 97. Items will be presented to board at next meeting. Bids are also out for electrical work at Gansevoort.**

**Next up on the agenda was a review of the Tribeca habitat: oyster recall, getting ready for seeding.**

**Chelsea Waterside Park was discussed including items relating to the dog run and renovated ballfields which were expanded.**

**Monies were received from the City's OMB which loosened up funds for multiple projects including redoing the tennis court surface. Corey got funding for the CWP dog run project.**

**One high priority project is the existing Amtrak tunnel in need of repair. Sandy damaged them; work requires 2 new tunnels, whereby the new tunnels will be constructed first, and then repair work will commence on the current Amtrak tunnels. The area encompasses the 29/30th street area. It is called the Gateway project.**

**Nicolette Witcher presented a detailed slide show of the ESMP followed by a slide show by Tina Walsh and yet another presentation by Carrie Roble. Plan is a guide to sculpt education, research, habitat enhancement and public access and**

resource management. The guide provided updated contextual and progress info, drafted in collaboration with DEC and Tech Advisory Committee members.

**9 year action agenda:**

- To increase Knowledge of Estuarine Sanctuary and foster dedication to the Hudson River by expanding and improving environmental education in the Park, NYC and the river.

Create educational partnerships, promote sustainable behaviors, create science opportunities, foster estuary learning.

Margie Turrin of Lamont Doherty spoke about partnership working with education team at HRPT. Small program called Submerge evolved into a much bigger program with thousands of participants; research and habitat enhancement vision, improve health and ecological vitality of the ES by using science to inform adaptive enhancements.

Jim Lodge, Senior Scientist of the Hudson River Foundation, is an ESMP TAC members, research and Habitat enhancement spoke about public access and resource management and how to connect the public to ES by providing increased physical and visual access to the HR in a manner that promotes and preserves natural resource.

**Keys to the program:**

Complete Park to create physical and visual access to the River

Manage and protect the sanctuary

Safe access to the sanctuary

Offer diverse ways to enjoy the sanctuary

Build upon sustainability and resiliency initiatives.

Margaret Flanagan also a TAC member, Public Access and Resource Management. Offered a view of the program as a member of TAC. Provide scientific response to climate change. Reviewed action plan, high financial costs for maintenance and water access and role of the HRPT, TAC, advisory council and others.

Noreen said clarification of the Estuary/Sanctuary is outlined in the declaration but also includes access to the water, physical and visual. AC member requested access to declaration.

Noreen declared, HRPT says plans for Pier 40 and 76 are in process of being reevaluated in a post covid lens in terms of revenue expectations.

Event requests and permits are returning. Many walk/runs are looking for 2021 and beyond. High School graduations are also looking at options in the park. All will be following the CDC and EO guidelines.

Kira responded, HRPK is accepting all applications and permits for events from Not-for-Profit Orgs, public and private schools. So far total attendance has to be less than 200 people but that will be adjusted as the rules change, following all the safety protocols that are outlined by the EO and CDC. Many are holding space and not ready to finalize the plans yet. Regarding internal events, park is looking to bring cultural events back to the park but not there yet; will continue online events and allow the park space to be used publicly. There will be pop up performances in the park that will happen without announcements to provide access to all who are there

Noreen and Deb spoke about park operations. DOT will be opening the crosswalk at 14th street soon. Cameras and planting installations are continuing. Recently cameras were installed at Pier 84, more at Pier 40 & 26 and Clinton Cove to come. Adjustments have been made for signals and antennas. More infill and expansion of the network will be done looking ahead. Requests were made to have cameras and signs facing the wake in ferry and high boat traffic areas.

HRP is also upgrading recycling and waste cans in the park and supplementing where needed. DOT signage, up to 80 signs have been installed to let people know motorized scooters were not allowed in the park. Almost every park entry will have the signs. Midtown North NYPD joined the parks officers near 54th street to do bike education on the bikeway. This should be modeled for each community board. Staffing levels are same if not more than last year, and seasonal team is being hired as well as a new horticulturist.

Annual Budget has been approved and does not include the capital projects discussed. Operational budget FY20 pre-Covid \$37.6M; projected FY21 \$25.7M, and with approved FY22 \$28mil.

BPCA resiliency plan as it relates to the park was discussed. There is a water component whereby the wall system may or may not increase water in the park itself and they are reviewing the engineering studies and having engineers discussing the modeling. Progressive design build projects will be done by RFP. HRPT wants to have opportunity to be in the room with all of the State and City DOT to review options before decisions are made. The AC would like a seat at the table as well.

Michael Wiggins will update HRP AC at our meeting next month for the new Equity committee.

BYLAWS have been updated and will be posted on the website shortly.

Other items: no update was provided for Pier 97 and the illegal bus parking.

There is no smoking in the park of any kind (cigarettes, marijuana or cigars, etc)...not sure more signage is the answer.

Exec will meet in May. If you have suggestions for the agenda please send it along.

Meeting adjourned 8:19pm