

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

c/o Hudson River Park
Pier 40 | 353 West Street
New York, NY 10014

Advisory Council Meeting | Monday, July 20, 2020

Via Zoom | 6pm

MINUTES

Attendance is taken at 6:05pm.

Virtual Programs - Tina Walsh, Sr Dir of Education & Outreach of HRPT

Covid has changed way we educate

Surveys - key outreach to public and key partners to identify needs and interests

Digital resources - STEM activity of the week and Ask a Scientist are very popular
Virtual summer camp. Can be downloaded and offloaded for offline viewing at any time

Kira Levy - Dir of Marketing and Events; no advertising budget. Reaching out through FoHRP; through SM and email. Also tenant reach out; Sponsors have had their budgets cut. We continue to engage them, promotional means not financial means, through newsletters;

Tom Lindon - VP of Marketing and events at HRPT

- Challenge of moving to digital is opportunity to expanding audience beyond local
- It's also a way to use platform and engage visitors for slower months like winter
- Facebook live programs

Andrew Zelter asked a budget related question about the impact of COVID and about how to allow outside class instruction in the park? HRPT is aware of the potential need but that specific requests have not occurred.

Discussion: The donut of Pier 40 would be a perfect space for outdoor learning.

Outdoor tents with open flaps;

Michael Wiggins asked What can the AC do to help HRPT with their education initiatives
Want to show that we are serving all of the area, Manhattan, to see the impact of the park on the entire city.

Noreen - HRPT is struggling with the budget. Tenants are struggling. Could not hire seasonal employees, gardeners, one seasonal for education, normally have double of the staff and they have lost that.

Tom Fox - why are digital numbers so low; not digital impressions of tens of millions. 17k email addresses.

Louis K of Waterfront - when will programming resume; only virtual programming for now; through end of October

Live from the field, fish ecology, sustainability and composting; in Fall, working with schools and students; after school,

Michael Wiggins - encouraged people to go to HRP website to see how the education is laid out and why reach is so high; get applauded for all that work. Also good that park is reaching out to public to find out what kind of programs the public is looking for.

Rashi Puri - AVP Real Estate, Report on HRPT Concessions

Food concessions are open for outdoor dining

Health and safety protocol are being followed

Limited takeout menu

Outdoor signage to enforce social distancing.

- Pier 54 (Hooked) takeout, also option to sit outside
- Pier 66 Frying Pan, outdoor seating, full operation with waiter service
- **Drift In - just opened this week, only for takeout**
- City Vineyard - Pier 26 - outdoor seating
- Grand Banks - operating

Tom Fox - what is the state of Pier 57? HRPT said delayed due to COVID, City Vineyard may open as initial limited use this fall if they can.

Erica Bates from Chelsea Piers; Golf was designed with social distancing in mind; auto balls, get washed as well. Facilities are closed and perhaps camps can open end of July. Event spaces are closed at CP. Want to get active but need to wait until Gov allows more services such as health clubs, event spaces, and summer camps.

After Tom Fox's question, Noreen confirmed Hornblower is still in the park.

SAFETY

Dennis McCartney and Deb Kustka

- Educate public about social distancing and mask wearing
- 2500 masks this past weekend
- Going to all sections of the park
- Playground at 45, skateparks,
- Pier 84 and 45 have circles
- Alcohol in park - PEP more enforcement;
- Signage no alcohol;
- No uptick in trash

City Vineyard - serve drinks, no place to sit, PEP

Trash in water - rainfall causes refuse to enter the water

More signage in the park to wear masks.

Nicolette Witcher - Senior Policy Advisory, HRPT

Nicolette explained strategic alliance between The River Project and HRPT -- merged team, philosophy, function. Environment and Education Department now called The River Project has 9 team members. Nicolette stepped down voluntarily as Department VP and became Senior Policy Advisor. Carrie Roble is now department head and VP. Tina Walsh also promoted.

Staff attended 11/19 meeting of the Advisory Council to update on Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan

Sanctuary Management Plan - how to manage estuary sanctuary, create access and uses, connections, met with Technical Advisory Committee; discussed public education; habitat enhancement and research; Met with full Technical Advisory Committee in December 2019. Before that met with subcommittees. Got targeted feedback in January.

Tribeca enhancement plan - was shaped by the Research and Habitat TAC subcommittee.

Tom Fox said HRPT should use its brand to promote programs that focus on history.

HRPT has a very strong Environmental History program. How about history of the historic vessels? Always looking to do more to bring more programs. History of the waterfront, history of the Frying Pan, walking tour of Greenwich Village connecting to the park; VCB has a long history from 18th and 19th century. Promote these programs in their community. Program on Frying Pan is online through Facebook Live. Terrific program can be accessed online added Tom Linden.

Estuarium planning at Pier 26

Siddhartha Hayes of HRPT, formerly River Project- Confirmed alignment and involvement of former River Project staff in department such as live Aquaria planning,

Education on Oysters; connects with history of working man's lunch;

Rob Pirani - restoration of the entire sanctuary may be affected by budget; bond act may have a positive impact on the sanctuary; encouraged getting ESMP out of public review given Bond Act.

City is advancing its launch of the floatable on HRP; write letter to support of environmental initiatives; through the bond act. HRP AC to support the bond act through a letter?

Carrie Roble provided a report on the Estuarium and work with Cambridge 7; public facility, for educators; how our behaviors influence water health, space utilization; low through tanks, fish and wildlife; Siddhartha Hayes once of the River Project, Cambridge 7 has been thoughtful and creative, wetlab and flow through system, tank design, species; we are in step one, getting down to technical necessities, unique aquaria, what kind of fish can we keep alive, concept phase right now.

Need to learn more about what is needed to build a successful building before we begin- live fish, education, and place for science. How to incorporate all those into the current plan for the structure. The sizing will depend on figuring how these items work together. Only 15m is available for this to date. Not enough. Hope for Bond Act to be approved or other funding. Once more info is received, then we can move to design phase. Building cannot block visual corridor.

Alice Blank - 1st Vice Chair of CB1 requested updates at CB1 meeting.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE from Noreen Doyle, EVP, HRPT
Pier 26 will open this year.

Whitney construction of Days End on Gansevoort done this fall but later than expected; delay will not affect Gansevoort.

Working on construction documents and permit applications for Gansevoort peninsula, tracking city funding, start project in 2021.

Little Island is progressing

Pier 97 - design update prior, returned to CB4 to update on comfort station design, will be tweaked due to CB4 comments

Redo of Chelsea Waterside Park - new dog run, picnic area, comfort station and Chelsea Cove area presented to CB4 and well received

Redoing ballfield at Chelsea Waterside thanks to funding by Speaker Johnson, and Gale Brewer

Fields reopened today for Pier 40; Facade repairs, 12.8 million approved for roof, air rights monies are being used.

This fall, the Intrepid lease is expected to be reviewed in Significant Action process.

Pier 84 Dog Run and tennis courts will see a restoration from Council Member Corey Johnson; will OMB approve it given Covid

Pier 97 - RFP process for Historic Vessels at Piers 25, 26 and 97 supervised by Rashi, At Pier 97, northern neighbor is Con Ed, fairly narrow area, has a rounded corner due to edge of pier was hit by barges for con ed coming into Pier 98, berth location identified for south side instead. Both sides have shallow water. RFP still open.

Louis Kleinman asked if Chelsea Waterside should be renamed for John Doswell . Noreen Doyle stated she did not remember that that request had ever been made and that John was more associated with the water and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen.

Tom Fox - who advised Trust on the location of historic vessels on Pier 97? HRPT responded that the Trust made the decision. Dredging is allowed. The EIS said no landfill, no dredging. HRP Act allows dredging for navigation purposes only. Super environmentally charged item; it would take years to get permissions to dredge;; no dredging at this second.

Tom Fox - without dredging there won't be historic vessels in HRP.

Pier 57 update - City Vineyard may open earlier- balance of pier will open 2021;

Tony Simone from Friends reported the Volunteer program is back; 5 per session Green teams work on every other Saturday; follow all protocols

Friends is still fundraising; funding for 9 up to 15 seasonal workers/gardeners for HRP Budget cuts across board from city parks, found new funding from additional foundations;

Important for our mental health....

By Laws - Wendi Paster, used CB by laws for sourcing,
membership committee

2nd vice chair to become chair of membership committee, tracking attendance.

1st vice chair - attendance

how stuff gets posted

2 year term for Chair

Mary Habstritt - Safety Committee

The committee was formed at the last moment of the last in-person meeting we had so there wasn't a formal charge given to us. One thing we want to do is take discussions off-line and come back with proposed action items that the full Advisory Council can consider. Read report for safety - many issues.

Although the Advisory Council has discussed it many times, the committee chose bikeway safety as its top priority. We hope to take a different tack on it and make progress. Even though the bikeway itself, as we know is not HRP jurisdiction, it crosses every entrance to the park and the mix of traffic types and the many intersection provide lots of opportunity for conflict and potential injuries.

Wendi Paster - recommendation of HRP writing a letter

No response from letter to SDOT regarding Bikeway expansion

New Business - no response EDC response

2021 Opening of St. John's Terminal (did I hear that right?)

In Water Committee

Request from Tom Fox to better understand HRPT's staffing towards the comprehensive look of the water; people on it, fish in it; the more you bring people to the water the more they want to learn about it.

The sanctuary separates HRP from other parks (Noreen)

September 8th next meeting date.

New HRPT website, improved for phone use. There is now an Advisory Council area. HRPT welcomes suggestions.

Lights not working near Gansevoort. Gansevoort will have solar lights.

Between Chelsea Piers and Pier 57 no signs in the pavement near cross streets -- are any planned? No signs are in the works at that location (Noreen).

HRPT requested to provide a written report before the September meeting.

Jeffrey LeFrancois breaks the record for longest HRP AC meeting in history of Council.

Meeting adjourns 8:40p.