

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

Advisory Council Meeting | Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Via [Zoom](#) | 6pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome + Minutes adoption (3 minutes)
 - a. [Attendance form](#)
 - b. Meeting called to order 6:03
 - c. November 10 meeting [minutes](#)
 - i. Mary asked for clarification about Safety Committee letter - asked for correction that the letter was drafted by the *Executive* Committee
 - ii. Motion to approve minutes as amended, seconded, no objections
2. Housekeeping (2 minutes)
 - a. [2021 Meeting calendar](#) (*tentative*)
 - i. Proposed 2021 Meeting calendar was mentioned
3. HRPT Updates (15 minutes)
 - a. [Report](#)
 - i. Noreen and Tina showed video fish ecology video device - trap with camera and bait to lure fish into view (striped bass), to showcase river ecology to visitors of the park
 - ii. Goal to reopen Wetlab next year
 - iii. Plan to have live streamed videos
 - iv. Noreen/Carrie: stories in news about menhaden (bunker) fishkill in Hudson - typically seen in warm weather or other stressors like sewage overflows. Community of scientists are investigating to see if there is a disease cause. If you have pics or videos of the kill to share with researchers, email to marinefisheries@dec.nyc.gov.
 - v. Noreen/ Tom Lindon/Kira upcoming programming
 1. Tom - coming off very successful first season of virtual programming, able to add participants in 5 boroughs and beyond
 - a. Planning: build on success of digital programming and complement with as much in person programming as possible

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

2. Kira: looking at ways to safely offer in park programming, working with River Project - park education and cultural programming. Pumpkin Smash held on Election Day- 200 people socially distant, pre-registered & timed entry. Believe that success indicates they can try larger events going forward. Tedster boy is a big Insta fan of HRPT and gave them good coverage
3. Tom: taking info from events like that, plotting out circles to space out future events
4. Noreen: River Project's Wetlab is one project that is the type of project they are focused on bringing back
 - a. Open to partnering with other organizations on programming, but none have stepped forward yet
 - b. Tom Fox: for the future, can we collect info on who is using the park, feedback, etc. Is there an annual report published on usage demographics, future plans?
Noreen: we have to be careful about creating a barrier to entry by having too much data collection/registration, but they have some. No full report published on usage
5. Kevin (Design and Construction):
 - a. Gansevoort Peninsula - on track 100% construction documents ready to bid and released end of January. Released Surcharge Program a few days ago - concerns that existing fill may settle when new field is built - 10 ft of clean imported stone fill will be added (above planned level) and let sit for 4 months to accelerate settlement, and then spread out to level the park
 - b. Pier 97 - 80% construction documents, bidding towards end of January. Some lessons from Pier 26 etc are to buy certain elements early to allow time to work out kinks - 1) shade structure manufacture procured in next week or so to arrive JIT
 - c. Qs Daniel - what will grade of field be for Gansevoort?
Kevin - field will be 5ft higher than current surface, feathered off to meet existing grade. Noreen - intention

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

was always to get as much height as possible given flooding etc, it was indicated on original plans

- d. Tom - grade changes handicapped accessible? Kevin: All grade changes gradual enough that there is no impediment
 - e. Erica - how will that affect spectators Kevin - it will be imperceptible
6. Noreen - update for Deb re State DOT on signage for bikeway - today DOT agreed on signage for no motorized vehicles. Reviewing format of signs. Planning for signs at each entrance. Process: fabrication during Winter, installation by Spring. Idea: could signs be added to City DOT signs pointing people to bikeway to indicate no e-bikes etc? Will follow up with City. Signage has been put up by Trust on esplanade
4. HRP Friends updates (10 minutes)
- a. [Report](#)
 - i. Tony: Giving Tuesday last week raised \$10,000. Good representation of Board members at Board 4 meeting on Tow Pounds. Composting continuing during winter months. Volunteer at hudsonriverpark.org. More volunteering opps in Spring
5. Committee Reports (20 minutes)
- a. [Bylaws](#) - TABLED - need more work and will have for review next month. Wendi: link is to a live document so you will see changes being made. Feel free to send questions to Wendi if you have them
6. New business (30 minutes)
- a. Pier 40 + 76 Task Force Update
 - i. Jeffrey: pandemic hiatus since March 8. Reconvened after last AC meeting, determined focus would be Pier 76 - relocate tow pound, remove structure, find a way to create interim uses for Pier, which would be biggest open space in Hells Kitchen. Board 4 held Waterfront Parks committee, received presentation on uses, well received. Tammi Meltzer, Isaac-Daniel, Rob Carini are AC members of Task Force.
 - ii. Tom: site proposed for expansion had mercury found when bridge was built, which is why level is raised - it was capped. Anticipates that there may be considerable contamination on Pier 76 due to the use as tow pound over the years, environmental study might be in order.

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

Jeffrey - meetings have definitely discussed possible environmental issues

b. Pier 40 Construction

i. Kevin: four key areas of work:

1. Sprinkler rehabilitation - fire suppression. In home stretch should be done in next 6 months (has been going over a year)
2. Pile work - phases 3-6 simultaneously, leaving last phase NW corner of building to be bid in Spring
3. Roof project - south side of Pier should be done about May, allowing cars to park again, and reopening closed (passive) field. New turf field, late spring early summer
4. Facade work - inspected about a year ago, number of loose bricks, open joints, repairing each. Working on North side ride now, just started Monday. East side - beginning of January sidewalk bridge and work on that side - bricks and blue metal porcelain panels - fixing rust and fixing causes. East and North done by April 1, West and South facades in Summer

ii. Daniel: thanks for adding fields. Will there be any entrance closures due to facade work? Kevin - no, only temporary for deliveries

iii. Tom Mullarkey: will passive field be available for organized sports? Noreen: when fields were first constructed on roof, CB2 asked for passive recreation space. But it was often used informally by groups for warmups, etc but was not in permitting system. If we want a formal change of use we should talk to CB2

iv. I-D: Kevin: there will be fencing, striping, lighting. ID: no impact to courtyard fields due to renovation? K: correct. ID: resurface roof field? K: probably not until we have firm plans for work on roof below it. ID: processing for permitting of Passive field? Noreen: probably not strong constituency for continuing Passive use, recommend bring it to CB2, or just use it informally. ID: will it obstructions be removed? K: yes, lighpoles, random stuff is being removed

v. Rob: will south side of pier be scaffolded during facade work? K: only East side will be fully scaffolded, other sides just done in portions with a lift

vi. Sally: Village Community Boathouse - in last week roof work has opened hole and water is pouring in and causing significant damage in

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

past week. K: has let the contractors have it on this. Noreen: please be sure to report promptly. Bob Townley: Alex and Robert are point people at Pier

- vii. Albert: refresh us on how much money is being spent on these projects towards 100M amount. Noreen: it will exceed the 100M
- viii. Andrew: re South facade - will the "We Thank You" sign be affected. K: minimally affected, will restore paint as work goes. A: with enhanced field upstairs we should try to separate adult and youth use at same time. Noreen: we can speak to youth leagues about that. Dan: any lessons from Pier 26? Noreen: heavy use as non-permitted space.
- ix. Deley: is all money coming from the 100M St. Johns sale? Noreen: it had been all going to be for piles, and that won't use it all. City also got them some extra money and some other sources. Will follow up with an inventory
- c. Bob Townley: motorized bikes proliferating on and also off bike path, on piers. Also mask use. J: ebikes talked about extensively at Exec Committee, reiterated signage etc talked about earlier
- d. Tom Fox: is there prohibition of pedestrians on bike path? Noreen: no, because at the moment it is designated multi-modal pathway. State DOT needs to certify that esplanade is done in order to separate bikeway. Trying to get it done in chunks.

7. Old business (10 minutes)

- a. [Response](#) from EDC re: Ferry zone
 - i. Agreed that request is reasonable
- b. Michael Wiggins: Noted that the education programs of the park are highly aligned to goals of diversity and inclusion. Education and art and bike education (using them properly), encourage AC to include more of this type of programs. Also observed that ferries support inclusion by bringing different people to the park from different areas. Jeffrey - how best to include this as an agenda item. Michael, making a public statement, increasing diversity of AC. Suggest devote entire session of AC to diversity. Bob T: his staff has noted Park users have become very much more diverse this year. Families from all parts of the city seem to have discovered it this year, we need to find a way to double down on this trend. Carrie: this is very important to HRPT and a lot of effort is going into being welcoming and inclusive. Would like to share some of the things they have done and explore

Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council

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

new ideas. J: HRPT staff and programs display more diversity than AC, so there's a lot of work to do. We will look at reshaping January meeting along these lines. Dan: reach out to Bylaws committee to codify it during this revision phase

- i. Tom: second Michael's suggestion. Let's hear from HRPT. Earlier question about demographics was getting at this point.
 - ii. Mary: Michael's contributions on Safety Committee has helped them focus on education and being welcoming as much as enforcement
 - iii. Wendi: Lack of diversity on AC may start with member organizations- how do we encourage our orgs to increase their diversity. How do we get more groups. M: he has some ideas. The efforts are there and visible, let's build on them
 - iv. Carrie: shared readings that have helped inform HRPT's discussions on this
 - v. Rob Pirani: appreciate Michael bringing attention to this. Encourage HRPT to present on what they've done. We should also focus on constituencies in the park who have not been represented
 - vi. Bob: if you expanded the AC by 10 people to include school constituencies would include youth segment and increase diversity
 - vii. Tom F:
 1. Unfortunately legislation requires that HRPT AC represent community orgs, that might limit
 2. 20 elected officials should be able to make different representative choices to increase diversity of AC
 - viii. Sally: Boathouse has major youth rowing program, diverse students from many schools and demographic backgrounds
- c. J: Jan meeting will discuss DEI and Bylaws

Meeting adjourned