

# HUDSON RIVER PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
c/o Hudson River Park Trust  
Pier 40, 2nd Floor  
353 West Street  
New York, NY 10014  
P 212.627.2020

[advisorycouncil@hrpt.ny.gov](mailto:advisorycouncil@hrpt.ny.gov)  
[hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/  
hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council](http://hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council)

## MEMBERS

**Chair:** Jeffrey LeFrancois  
(Community Board 4)  
**First Vice Chair:** Daniel Miller  
(Community Board 2)  
**Second Vice Chair:** Bob Townley  
(Community Board 1)

Assembly Member Glick  
Assembly Member Gottfried  
Assembly Member Rosenthal  
Assembly Minority Leader Appointment  
Assembly Speaker 1 Appointment  
Assembly Speaker 2 Appointment  
Community Board No. 1  
Community Board No. 2  
Community Board No. 4  
Comptroller of the City of NY  
Congressman Nadler  
Council Member Chin  
Council Member Johnson  
Council Member Rosenthal  
New York City Council Minority Leader  
New York City Council Speaker 1 Appointment  
New York City Council Speaker 2 Appointment  
Public Advocate  
Senate Majority Leader 1 Appointment  
Senate Majority Leader 2 Appointment  
Senate Minority Leader Appointment  
Senator Hoylman  
Senator Jackson  
Senator Kavanagh

Chelsea Cultural Partnership  
Chelsea Piers Management  
Chelsea Village Partnership  
Chelsea Waterside Park Assoc.  
Christopher St. Patrol  
City Club of New York  
Council of Chelsea Block Assoc.  
Downtown Little League  
Downtown United Soccer  
Friends of Pier 84  
Greenwich Village Little League  
Hudson Guild  
Hudson River Foundation  
Hudson River Park Friends  
Hudson River Watertrail Assoc.  
Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum\*  
Lilac  
Little Island (Pier 55, Inc.)  
Manhattan Youth, Recreation & Resources Inc.  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
New Yorkers for Parks  
North River Historic Ship Society  
Pier 66 Maritime  
The Downtown Boathouse  
The River Project  
Village Community Boathouse  
West Village Houses

Commissioner Basil Seggos, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Viki Been, Vice Chair  
Hudson River Park Trust  
343 West Street, Pier 40, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10014

March 22, 2021

Dear Commissioner Seggos and Deputy Mayor Been:

The Hudson River Park Advisory Council (AC) last met on March 9, 2021 and the Trust's proposed 30-year lease with the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum was among the issues discussed. We had hoped to provide the Trust Board of Directors with our thoughts on the issue and a recommendation, but we were unable to do so.

Although our membership is quite interested, and discussed the issue for a while, we were not able to provide any advice and/or craft a recommendation. The issues surrounding the proposal are complex and although many members have relevant experience, the majority of the Council members didn't feel that they had sufficient time, or information, to consider the issue appropriately. A resolution failed because a majority of members abstained.

We hadn't been informed of either the negotiations, or the proposed terms of the agreement, until our agenda was distributed several weeks prior to the meeting. While we were made aware that the Trust was presenting the issue to Community Board 4 (CB4), we learned at our meeting that the proposed lease was being presented to the Trust Board at its March 25 meeting and that the Trust had been in negotiations with the Intrepid for 2 to 3 years. Being made aware of the status of the lease based on years of negotiations was alarming, given the statutory status of the Advisory Council.

The AC was established by the Hudson River Park Act to provide advice and recommendations to the Trust regarding the planning, design, construction, and operation of the Hudson River Park. The membership includes all of the relevant city, state, and federal elected officials as well as community, park, environmental, civic, maritime and business organizations interested in the Park's future, including tenants.

We respectfully request that the AC be informed and involved earlier in all future planning and policy initiatives to allow us to fulfill our responsibilities appropriately.

Our exclusion from the decision-making process was also evident when the AC was given a briefing regarding the decennial update on the Estuary Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP). When we inquired about the current state of the ESMP update, the Council was told it would soon be ready for a public review.

# HUDSON RIVER PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hudson River Park Advisory Council  
c/o Hudson River Park Trust  
Pier 40, 2nd Floor  
353 West Street  
New York, NY 10014  
P 212.627.2020

[advisorycouncil@hrpt.ny.gov](mailto:advisorycouncil@hrpt.ny.gov)  
[hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/](http://hudsonriverpark.org/about-us/)  
[hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council](http://hudson-river-park-trust/advisory-council)

## MEMBERS

**Chair:** Jeffrey LeFrancois  
(Community Board 4)

**First Vice Chair:** Daniel Miller  
(Community Board 2)

**Second Vice Chair:** Bob Townley  
(Community Board 1)

Assembly Member Glick  
Assembly Member Gottfried  
Assembly Member Rosenthal  
Assembly Minority Leader Appointment  
Assembly Speaker 1 Appointment  
Assembly Speaker 2 Appointment  
Community Board No. 1  
Community Board No. 2  
Community Board No. 4  
Comptroller of the City of NY  
Congressman Nadler  
Council Member Chin  
Council Member Johnson  
Council Member Rosenthal  
New York City Council Minority Leader  
New York City Council Speaker 1 Appointment  
New York City Council Speaker 2 Appointment  
Public Advocate  
Senate Majority Leader 1 Appointment  
Senate Majority Leader 2 Appointment  
Senate Minority Leader Appointment  
Senator Hoylman  
Senator Jackson  
Senator Kavanagh

Chelsea Cultural Partnership  
Chelsea Piers Management  
Chelsea Village Partnership  
Chelsea Waterside Park Assoc.  
Christopher St. Patrol  
City Club of New York  
Council of Chelsea Block Assoc.  
Downtown Little League  
Downtown United Soccer  
Friends of Pier 84  
Greenwich Village Little League  
Hudson Guild  
Hudson River Foundation  
Hudson River Park Friends  
Hudson River Watertrail Assoc.  
Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum\*  
Lilac  
Little Island (Pier 55, Inc.)  
Manhattan Youth, Recreation & Resources Inc.  
Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance  
New Yorkers for Parks  
North River Historic Ship Society  
Pier 66 Maritime  
The Downtown Boathouse  
The River Project  
Village Community Boathouse  
West Village Houses

Our members were taken aback because even those AC members who have voluntarily served on the ESMP Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) have yet to see the latest draft report. The AC is interested in understanding the significant progress that is being made and particularly interested in insuring there is an appropriate budget to implement the research and restoration priorities included in the plan's recommended update.

We would appreciate the opportunity to review the draft ESMP prior to its being released to the public or voted on by the Trust board. The ESMP is already two years overdue and allowing time for our review will ensure that the AC is able to meet its responsibility to provide advice and recommendations to the Trust board and staff, as anticipated in the Act.

We hope the Board will be provide the staff the appropriate direction to ensure the Advisory Council's meaningful inclusion in Park planning moving forward.

All the AC members volunteer their time to support the completion and long-term care of this wonderful public park and we want to have a productive and beneficial relationship with the Trust and its staff. We look forward to working more closely with the Trust staff and Board in the future. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair