

HRPK AC Meeting October 12th, 2021

Chair Jeffrey LeFrancois opened access to the Zoom meeting for members and the public at 6:05p. Request is made to fill out the attendance form. Agenda is distributed. Agenda is approved. September 2021 minutes passed unanimously.

It is announced that Chris McCann replaces Dennis McCarthy as safety officer. Dan Kurtz retired. Kim Quinones replaces Dan Kurtz. Kim spent 30 years as a private banker. She also worked at Roosevelt Island previous to taking a new post at HRPK. Kim is the new CFO of HRPK.

Deb Kustka of HRPK Operations, ramped up volunteers with landscaping, winter maintenance plan, signage projects, safety striping. Look out for new striping on the bikeway, concentrated in CB2. Other projects include a computer maintenance management system update, and continued work with managing assets.

Timeline on resurfacing on Greenway is being prepared.

Snow plans are being developed. A 13th street crosswalk has been added to make it safer for pedestrians to access Little Island. More safety measures needed. CB2 Task Force has since met with SDOT, CDOT and other stakeholders.

Barriers will need to be removed to access the pavement work on the Greenway, which is termed a mill and fill of the bikeway.

A recommendation was made by an AC member to resurface the bikeway during less busy time. In addition, in front of Little Island would not be touched, just older areas.

Tom Linden reviewed events happening in the park: exercise programs, sunset salsa, busy summer season, Pier 76 has experienced lots of activity, special events began as soon as allowed. The Trust worked with Amex on US Open event at Pier 76. Custom tennis courts were active in August. The courts were used by card members. Other events included Fashion Week hosted by Coach. The skate park at Pier 62 was also used during fashion week. Upcoming events include NY Wine and Food Festival which will occur this coming weekend. The MS bike ride is also happening in October.

Noreen spoke about the warring tango companies. Pier 45 has perfect conditions for dancing because its floor material is spongy, a great venue outdoor dance floor. HRPT is creating an RFP so the competing tango companies can apply for

Pier 45 use. Large unpermitted crowding is requiring such an RFP be put in place.

There was some concern by AC members that hosts such as Amex are providing enough revenue for the park. Commercialization of the park for event space too often and without a plentiful returns for each event threatens the public nature of the park.

Response: there is different pricing for profit versus non-profit events. Half the amount for a non-profit compared to for profit event. Pricing also takes into consideration for the size of the event, a small event versus a large one. Historically, the pricing has a baseline+ of \$50k for corporate events.

Also, organizers must follow capacity rules, and are in charge of managing the event.

Sally Curtis raised the issue that the non-profit Village Community Boathouse was being charged “rent”. The tenant was told most of the new rent proceeds received by the Trust will go towards electric charges. Response from tenant is that they cannot afford to pay. VCB has no substantial income. The VCB offers free public access to the waters through its many programs used by youth and a diverse community representation. The VCB is being operated on a month-to-month permit issued by HRPT. P3 and Village Community Boathouse are the only non-profits that do not have an RFP. HRPT responded that its best to take the matter offline so VCB and HRPT can come to a resolution that works for all concerned.

The Greenway is an ongoing topic. Safety issues were recently presented at the HRPK Board meeting so its members were aware. Enforcement alone is not the only answer. Think bigger; new plan is needed with multiple agencies involved. November AC meeting will invite SDOT and CDOT representatives to review a fraction of the many issues.

10 construction contracts currently in play. Pier 97 and Gansevoort are two of them with 100 million in contracts on the slate. Public procurement is a long process, each one is a big deal (takes a lot of prep) before it goes to the HRPK Board for approval. Chelsea Waterside permit requires fencing but the bathroom will take the longest to construct. People will be able to enter the dog run, ball court, and ball field from anyplace other than 23rd street entrance. The ballfield is scheduled for the summer.

Gansevoort Peninsula building constructions are going to cost more than 3 million falls under Ricks Law because of its size. Offsite work is underway regarding Pier 97, and visible construction will be in the works in November.

Restoration of the ship passage at Pier 40 including the pile repair should be completed Spring '22. Other capital maintenance projects in the park include the tennis courts and the Pier 84 dog run.

For safety, an AC member recommends placing bike signs before they enter park at Battery Park in particular.

Tree trimming will take place to optimize light source, space safety for bikers, as well as for the health of trees.

A comment was made regarding maintaining the safety of the boating community as it relates to the expanding of the Ferry network. Decision makers need to focus on providing safe passage for all human powered boaters before adding ferry stops.

Submerge is on the calendar from the 19th to 21st of October. The event can be attended virtually and in person. This yearly event will showcase wildlife, their habitat, river health, and will air on Facebook Live.

Day in the Life in the Hudson River exposed the quality of Hudson River water to hundreds of students that come to the park for this education series.

Carrie Roble reviewed the program “Release for the Fishes”, a wet lab, community event. Program is designed to release fish that were in the lab, so they can continue on their migration. Also look out for Pumpkin Smash, Nov 7, 11 to 2p, to break down pumpkins and teach about composting.

Tony Simone of HRP Friends spoke about the gala event held last Thursday before the AC meeting. The event reached its fundraising goal of 1.9 million. The event honored Google. Wyclef Jean was a performer. For those that missed it, a virtual gala is available. Some of HRP Friends projects include Pier 26 science area release and future playgrounds in the north of the park. HRP Friends volunteer network is now at 400 and the hope is to get to 1000 next year.

AC Members wishing to experience the event that could not afford it recommended a sliding pricing scheme so more would be able to support the park. Response: Friends released a virtual gala event so all could participate in voicing support for the park.

Comment: with all the big corporations building across from the park - Google, Hudson Yards - perhaps it's time to revisit the creation of the NID.

Mary Habstritt provided an update of the Safety Committee. Items of note included the reading of a police blotter. Mary also recommended that members share info about illegal and criminal things happening in park. The idea is to gather the data so we can create a community watch system.

Question: are statistics available that provide data showing the park is more or less safe over the years.

Chris McCann was introduced. He is the new chief safety officer at HRPT. Chris was with NYPD prior in the operations bureau with oversight at large special events like Macys Thanksgiving, 4th of July, and Coney Island events. Chris replaces Dennis McCarthy. Advice to the public: if you don't report it to the operations number, the criminal event isn't recognized as happening. Every vendor and park user should report issues at all times or the matter will not be addressed. Numbers are available on signage. Or, call 212-242-6427, which is the HRPK Operations number.

There was a request to dedicate an entire meeting towards safety.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Summary by Jeffrey. Work continues.

Membership - Tammy reviewed the process and where we are. Review will happen at the end of the odd year and new appointments start serving on the HRP AC on April 15th. Delinquent notices to AC members not attending meeting will be sent out by the end of December. Members in good must attend at least 50% of the meetings. There was a question as to why we have to meet every month. Response, we are meeting every month because we have so many issues to discuss.

History of the Park is a new Working Group, ultimately a move forward in a way that brings the park to life through technology, programming, special events, festivals, etc.

Maritime Mile book was highly recommended for all to read:
<https://www.amazon.com/Maritime-Mile-Greenwich-Village-Waterfront/dp/1931414041>

Request to write letter from AC to Board to address NYC Ferry northward expansion affecting Pier 79.

Greenway expansion letter was sent to expand bikeway into West Street and take a vehicular lane. Hence, AC is inviting NYS DOT and CDOT to AC discussion in November.

Motion to adjourn – seconded at 7:52p.