

Hudson River Park Advisory Council Minutes

April 12, 2022

Daniel Miller, Chair of HRP AC, initiated the meeting at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted for March 2022 Motioned passed for the minutes

Housekeeping: Dan Miller is now the Chair; Tammy is the 1st Vice Chair - taking Minutes; Jeffrey is the 2nd Vice Chair in charge of Membership and other areas

Police Officer Zeikel - 6th Precinct reviewed incident in the park
Safety Committee - Mary Habstritt - what is the best way to share information since there are so many districts?

- Captain said the 6th , 10th and midtown south taking turns on Bicycle Patrol, collaborating with PEP and Highway Patrol
- Will share the community affairs information for each precinct.
- Per Rob Rodriguez - there are safety boxes in the park for people to report.
 - Noreen not sure wayfinding will help people find Blue Boxes; suggested social media campaign.
 - Rob will look into the R&M plan for the boxes. The Call boxes are tested in coordination with the City.
- Capt Zeikel noted more lighting is good for quieter areas. There is a careful balance of sharing victim information and not.
- Isaac-Daniel asked about cameras - NYPD confirmed they were of use and HRPT was able to help a great deal with videos.
 - Noreen/Chris - Cameras are throughout the park; suspect was not in range but they did see him tracking the victim.
- Discussion of PEP officers on Bikes - In season PEP are on patrol but the bikes are considered a supplement not part of the regular patrol.
- For Robberies and theft - sharing the information with the other vendors in the area is important. HRPT will work with NYPD to share the information
- NYPD will share community liaisons per catchment areas of the park.
Precinct map located here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/find-your-precinct.page>
- 1st precinct Community Affairs - We cover from chambers st to Pier 40
 - PO Brian Nelsen brian.nelsen@nypd.org
 - PO Nick Iordanou Nicolaos.iordanou@nypd.org
 - PO Frank Ford francis.ford@nypd.org
 - 212-334-0640
- Noreen reminded people that the park is public - please do not leave your phones, etc.. on the fields and walk away.

The Safety Committee and AC will reach out to have a future conversation about safety on the Bike Path with the CBs and NYPD.

Executive Elections

Wendi Paster will be taking the role on the Executive Committee as the elected representative on the AC from Tracy Jackson - hearty welcome! She was automatically elected as there were no challenges from other elected reps.

HRP AC Executive Committee - each nominee speaks- 4 candidates for 3 spots:

- Isaac- Daniel Astrachean - focus on youth and recreation space, representing DUSC;
- Tom Fox, Historical Resource Committee, representing the City Club;
- Mary Habstritt - Safety Committee, Historical Resource Committee, representing Lilac Preservation;
- Martin Sweeney - on Exec Committee for the last 2 years, representing Downtown Boathouse

CP Lease Working group: Introduction of the letter from the working group re: Chelsea Piers Lease

Huntly Gill reviewed the letter and the recommendations (see attached). Working group members: Rob Buchanan, Mary, Tom, Rob Atturbery, Erica from CP, Huntly

- Michael asked about the safety and transportation analysis in regards to the narrowing of the lanes and the enlargement of the bike path
- Tom and Jeffrey spoke about the desire to have the vendors move their parked cars within the space vs parked in the lanes.
- Robert Atterbury: Gave a great summary of how the path became narrower in front of Pier 57.
- Rob Buchanan: We didn't want to make design recommendations, beyond recommending that the redesign allow for community participation
- From David: Three Professional Traffic Engineers have said the Chelsea Piers traffic flow would fail if a lane was removed. DOT engineers understood this when they did the original design.

AC members voted in favor of adopting the letter to a group to deep dive into the lease specifics. Motion passed with the following votes:

2 votes in Opposition of the letter: Erica Bater, Frying Pan

6 Abstentions of the letter: Michael, Michael Allen, Andrew, Doug, Connie

18 In support of the letter

The OPA Vote was opened for the Executive Board of AC and how to vote explained for the members of the organization. Please remember each member organization has ONE

(1) vote. If more than one representative votes - we will only count one of the votes and will reach out to you....that said, please vote only once. Many thanks!

Spring and Summer programming reviewed.

For the School Field Trips in HRPT: Per Tina: For the moment we are hosting outdoor programs - masks optional for both staff and students. The Wetlab opens in June & we will be making a call in the next month to determine a policy for students and public programs. It's an ongoing conversation we have with schools and teachers though - we will keep you all updated!

- Participatory Dance is back in the park with a large selection of diversity.
- Park public programming will be released the 1st week in May.
- Lilac's birthday is May 26th -89 years old this year - will reopen Memorial Day weekend; working with a lovely sculptor on a multimedia exhibit that will emphasize the water.
- Village Community Boathouse reopens on Sunday April 16; school programs have resumed.
- Intrepid is bringing back Free Friday Nights starting April 29 through September. Includes Astronomy and Movie nights. Free 5pm to 9pm; First come first served - movie nights - come early! <https://www.intrepidmuseum.org/free-fridays>
- Downtown Boathouse - reopens when the ramp is back; The Trust says that they are working on it and also looking at plan B to ensure they can open. Shooting for a soft opening the week before Memorial Day.
- CP - Events are slowly coming back; will take a long time to recover
- Little Island - Programming will start in early June. Announcing the details will be early to mid next month! Food and Beverage will open late April. Feel free to email Michael for a tour! Little Island is using UsherCore for college aged 18-26 years old students for summer jobs. <https://littleisland.org/jobs/little-island-usher-corps-program/>
- Manhattan Youth - Pier 25 - Friday nights will be starting soon.
- Frying Pan will be open weekends until May and the weather improves; then they will be open 7 days a week.

DEI resources:

Created a poll for all of the member organizations of the advisory council as a test run before we reach out further. It is for taking a temperature and gathering information.

Please fill it in before the next meeting:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfLTyaBkJ-UQ2Pwv2gmE9v8DECFzmtgUpZ5Ld-i2s-B9-9Jg/viewform>

Rob has asked if we have any demographics on who is using the park - HRPT says they have not done a comprehensive survey. The educational department has the most specific and quantitative data based on their programming but that is a small number of users. We do not have any information from the tour company clients or others up and down the park. There are some vendors in the park who have limited data: Downtown Boathouse has a map where people put pins as to where they come from each year.

BMCC spoke about the survey project they did with BPCA for park users:

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/bmcc-report-reveals-high-traffic-and-wide-use-of-battery-park-city-parks/>

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/news/bmcc-team-conducts-user-count-and-survey-of-public-spaces-for-battery-park-city/>

Intrepid has outreach methods and would be happy to be part of it. DUSC has a “Soccer for All” committee who would be able to share and attend the DEI committee meeting or join the committee.

Historic Resource Committee provided a brief report: Historic information about Gansevoort Peninsula

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g3KfdwmSHZbrEaiePdx6lkEUt3VcrAH4>

Requested if the AC can add the information that they know: Several parties give tours of the park and would like to collect these contacts. Great tour on the drive as Tina just mentioned, under the HRPT Resources folder!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfLTyaBkJ-UQ2Pwv2gmE9v8DECFzmtgUpZ5Ld-i2s-B9-9Jg/viewform>

***Committees please send their scheduled dates so we can post them on the website and attract more attendance. Dan and Robert will try to post them on the AC website area.

Meeting adjourned 8:13pm

- TM