

Welcome

6:34 Start Meeting

Dan Miller, Chair

November 1, 2022 Meeting Summary

Welcome and Housekeeping- Dan Miller

- Please fill in the attendance form even you are just a visitor
- Please add your information if you want to be on the mailing list for the future
- Welcome back Wendi Paster, AM Gottfried's office
- Minutes Approved from October Meeting - thank you to Michael Wiggins for taking the notes

Role of Technical Advisory Committee - Robert Pirani

- Welcome our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and we will be hearing from member lead Robert Pirani, from The River Foundation and Carrie Roble, from HRPT
- TAC and the role they play with their technical expertise.
 - The role is including not limited to helping formulate design and monitoring plans
 - Currently reviewing Pier 98 and how they will review the discharge
 - What questions will the Science TAC prioritize in the next agenda on this topic.
 - Help formulate the questions for the science and research plans
 - Estuarium Sanctuary is the only designated site with combination of habitat enhancement, research focus and public stewardship with a unique urban focus
 - Learning as we go; ESMP with all the relevant parties has come up with a framework innovative approach with adaptive management
 - Discharges have always been a focus of ESMP and the TAC and water quality in general with habitat management and public access.
 - Graeme Birchall - asked about the discharge on the Cruise Ships and if the TAC and Trust can get data on this because Graeme cannot find any data but knows it's happening. Noreen will see if she can find the information, but it may not be readily available.
 - DEC has agreed to come to a future meeting and perhaps DEC can opine on the Cruise Ships.

HRPAC letter in response to September's meeting

- Letter has been drafted through many hands on the AC asking for Trust Support investigating the issues on the discharge around Pier 98. Hopefully, everyone has had an opportunity to read the letter - any feedback?
 - No changes needed - Motion to accept/2nd - Passes Unanimously with 1 Recusal by Tom Fox

HRPT Programming and Construction Report -Robert Atterbury, HRPT

- **Available online:**
<https://hudsonriverpark.org/app/uploads/2022/10/2022.11.1-HRPT-AC-Report.pdf>
- Yesterday commemorated the 5-year anniversary and a memorial service was had for the people who passed from the Act of Terrorism in the Park
- Construction Updates:
 - Chelsea Waterside – Dog Run; supply chain issues for the fence panels should be solved shortly - it is the last large piece that prevents completion. Foundry is being checked weekly, but they are having staffing issues. This is one of the last pieces before minor

tweaks after they go in. It is a high priority for us, and we are in constant communication.

- o New Athletic fields - New Turf should be going in this month
 - o Crosswalk South of Pier 40/Google Crosswalk - almost complete - Plantings are looking good and will wrap up soon
 - o Tennis Courts are progressing well, but coating will have to be done in the spring due to weather sensitive treatments. They will be open in the meanwhile.
 - o Gansevoort: Pine grove and other plantings are done - it is coming together. A lot going on with the building and utility work and almost complete with water edge work before construction moratorium starts.
 - o Pier 97 - soil is being delivered and the all-ages slide is being done - everyone will join us for the opening!
 - o Board Approved:
 - Lead Design firm for the Estuarium has been identified and awarded; Going to CB1 in December to introduce the new team and will follow up with the AC in 2023. We expect much public input into the design process.
 - Science Play Area construction contract has been approved. Will start by the end of the year. Thank you to the HRP Friends, MBPO Levine and CM Marte who have ensured that all areas of this project were funded
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- Submerge Event - Very Successful and had 2 days in person and a virtual component.
 - Release the fishes -went great! marking the end of the Wetlab and thanking the fish for their service with the students.
 - About 6000 kids from all 5 boroughs not including the Submerge Events have participated in our educational programming.
 - NYC Food and Wine Attendance was high, and it was a great event!
 - Pumpkin Smash event is coming up - come enjoy the event and compost.
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- **Park Management Updates- Rob Rodriguez, HRPT**
 - Chelsea Waterside Park incident: Graffiti and Vandalism - very impacted and had to close the playground for a brief period - partially reopened due to repairs needed and replacement.
 - 23 new trees planted in the park not including those related to construction through Friends funding and the “1 tree planting” program.
 - Pier 25 - Sewer Pipe Disconnect on the NW corner of the pier has been repaired - all operations are normal again.
 - Lots of Community Gardener and Corporate Volunteers helping with the park. Staff is working on winterization of the supports.
 - Park Operations Desk: 212-242-6427
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- **Department of Public Safety - Chris McGann, HRPT**
 - Perpetrator of Sexual Assault is still at large from the March incident. Oct 6 - perpetrator committed a 2nd similar crime - they have a photo and are searching for him. PEP officers have the photos to help try to ensure he is caught.
 - Increase in thefts over the summer, including at Pier 40 - we are in close contact with NYPD working on the issues. Perpetrator was arrested and then released again and showed up to do it again in the park - the current warrant for his arrest is outstanding.
 - Working on Educating visitors to the park to watch their belongings no matter where they are throughout the park.
 - Public Safety Nuisances - Life Rings being tossed into the water is a frequent target, vandalism, graffiti, etc.
 - 300+ Hours this summer cleaning of graffiti

- Of note: the public who are in the park are not reporting crimes as they see them happening; it would be helpful to have more people reporting so it can be cleaned and handled faster

Q&A

- Susanna Aaron - Where are the hotspots for vandalism?
Noreen: Hot spots for tagging are near the Tribeca SkatePark; being done in the afternoon as well as the evenings.
Chris: We need help with the public calling it in.
- Susanna Aaron - Can you elaborate on the Estuarium Funding
Noreen: Funding for the Estuarium Noreen reported HRPT is paying for the designers themselves and saving the funds raised for the construction they are still sourcing funding.
 - \$4.7m DEC incl Con Ed; \$5m from Confidential Foundation; \$4.77M from NYC; \$5m Old pledge from PANYNJ was made; Looking for a total cost estimate based on an exciting design - for now it is around \$30mil and roughly half the budget has been raised.
- Tammy Meltzer- same as Suzanna; asked Chris to elaborate on the details of what happens to the people who destroy the life rings?
 - Chris: It is not a summons-able issue and mostly done by EDP..
- Mary Habstritt- re: Pier 25 and Pier 26 - are the repairs final?
 - Chris: no, we are still waiting for a few components to finish the permanent repairs on the pumps on Pier 25
- Hector Vazquez- Major Concerns about Electric Bikes and Scooters on the Bike path - what can be done about getting them off the bike path and parks?
 - Chris - PEPs is limited to enforcement as it intersects with the park itself. Anything on the path itself needs to involve the NYPD. NYPD has been intermittently involved but has not been able to be a consistent presence.
 - MBPO is also supportive of putting the bikes in a dedicated lane on 9A.
- Michael Wiggins - re: Graffiti - what preventative and redirected methods have we done to reduce the amount of Street Art? Instead of arresting kids - can we provide a location for them to do street art?
 - Noreen: the park has a light touch here and we can look into other opportunities for education. This is not the same as a community art wall and more a citation of challenges for heights and out of reach locations. We are considering sensitive design options which are longer term lenses, and we are looking for the right locations for them.
- Graeme Birchall - Can he be added to the Pier 25 list for updates?
 - Mary agreed to ensure that Graeme is on the list as Rashi did send an update on 9.30
- Dan Miller- Crossing at Pier 40 - Can you please monitor the safety situation of the timing of the crossings around Pier 40 with the new crossing and the Houston St intersection.
 - Noreen: Good flag and we will consider it on the HRP side of the crossing
 - Robert: We have shared the concerns with State DOT as well and we are both aware of the CB2 concerns. Of note, we have other intersections north of Pier 40 that pedestrians cross without traffic calming measures for bikes.
- Lynn Funk - Who if anyone is tracking the accidents and has records of incidents on the bike path between the illegal electric bicycles and pedestrians?
 - Noreen: This is not our property, and we only know what is reported to us. This is a much more macro question that needs to be with the CBs, DOT and Elected Officials. It spreads to sidewalks and everywhere else in the city with emerging technology and minimal enforcement.
 - Robert P in chat: This website tracks traffic accidents in the City - including bike accidents. <https://crashmapper.org/#/>
- Tom Fox - Remembering that City DOT deals with the timing of the lights even though State DOT owns the land.

- Tammy Meltzer - Has the Trust done an accessibility study for the crossings with pedestrians, bicycles and cars?
 - Noreen: Happy to raise this question to the DOT - city and state because all of the infrastructure is owned by them. It is in both agencies' purview to study the concerns as she has not been asked this directly.
- Tom Fox - Can the AC pass a resolution to ask the City/State to study this.
 - Dan/Jeffrey LeFrancois: this is a CB issue and can be taken up there.
 - Jeffrey: I will ask the Cb4 Transportation Co-chairs if they know if the State and City are looking at the West Street crossings as they review the situation across the boroughs. There was a lawsuit that pushed the city into action to ensure accessibility.

HRPF Report - Connie Fishman

- Volunteers: Our volunteer resources are significantly higher than they were before the pandemic. There is a large corporate push that has seemed to include a diversity of good works to attract people to come to the office with additional experiences through community service which has benefitted the park.
 - Even year over year = 10% increase in corporate participation in 2022 vs 2021
 - 100 Volunteer events and over 2000 people; this translates into about 8000 volunteer hours added to help the park horticultural staff
 - Volunteer events end the 2nd week in December
 - Corporate membership sign ups look strong for 2023 and we estimate the same or greater volunteer resources in 2023
- Annual Fundraiser: Raised about \$2.6million which is very successful; Funds and attendance are still less than pre-pandemic (pre-pandemic it was over 950-1000 people vs. now cut back to 650) but we are increasing revenues over last year and 2020
- Resumption of Give Where You Live - small fundraisers in people's homes - these are the last to return post pandemic due to the concerns of having 30 to 50 people in homes
- Sports and Athletic Group within the Development Committee - working on Bibs for NYC Marathons and the 5 Borough Bike Tour - allows for teams to raise money for the parks.
- Charity Ride in Soul Cycle in Hudson Yards
- Bark-fest will be soon
- Raising money for other activities: Submerge, Arts and Cultural series of events
- Pier 26 Science Playground Campaign is complete. Transferring the balance of the funds soon and working on donor plaques to be installed on the fence when the park is opened
- We have Estuarium Capital funds requests planned for the next State Budget: Ask for \$15m from the state and working with local officials to support the request; this hopefully will make up for what the Trust does not have already

Pier 34 - Closed to Public Use Discussion

Dan Miller and Tom Fox

- Envisioning potential and history of Half Acre of Open Space

Tom Fox/City Club

- Tom Fox offered chronology with Port Authority
 - South Finger Pier - public use for part of it without issues.
 - North Finger Pier - discussions stopped and it became a secured area for 5 years after 9/11 and then discussions were supposed to reopen
 - To date, discussions were not had on the North Finger Pier re:reopening
 - 27 Years of use on the south finger pier with no issues including access and active events.
 - Opportunities exist for public use on the north finger pier yet realized including not limited to catch and release.
 - Cb2 and the Trust can work collaboratively to see what can be done

- o Looking to get the Port Authority to the table to discuss the future and potentials

AC & Trust Responses:

- Robert A: PA has continuing use rights for as long as “operationally necessary”
 - o Certainly since 9/11 they have stiffened their position on security and safety
 - o We do not represent the PANYNJ operational needs
 - o We have shared the interest of the AC with the Port Authority and see how we can help them to engage on this topic
- Noreen: There needs to be some planning discussions on boating uses not just fishings nearby
 - o Discussions on how close anyone can get before the bullhorn from PA security is used is highly needed
 - o Boating and fishing can co-exist as it does all over the world and broader planning should be reviewed before pushing just fishing uses along
 - o We have not spoken with the board yet on this but functionally we have no concerns with the pier and are not interested in the structural maintenance, but we would like more public open space
 - o Cb2 and others should participate in a discussion on a variety of possible uses
- Deborah: Village Community Boathouse would like to ensure that boating is a core need for the space. We have our public rowing in the cove area there
- Dan: I have been bullhorn yelled at to get away from the vent shaft because I was paddling too close,
- Graeme: Downtown Boat House can vouch that kayaks used to get yelled at for being too close to the pier. The space between the 2 piers is an environmental space and looking at the opportunities for public engagement for what is in the water could be very valuable.
- Tammy: Visioning for opportunities for the park could be discussed
 - o Robert replied: This could be a creative process once the Port Authority outlines the space they may give us.
- Jeffrey: this is a great topic, and the road is long because once we have all the agencies add their barriers - like Homeland Security as we have experienced in CB4 with the cruise terminals
- Tom: The piers were built as preventative protections for the vent and the original designs called for connection latticework between the two - this would go a long way towards what Graeme is talking about
- Suzanna: this is a great idea to support and adding public space is amazing
- Dan: getting Port Authority to the table is the first step

Safety Issues: DUSC incident, recidivist harassment, homeless services

- The DUSC Incident was already discussed and detailed earlier; this is about what opportunities and protocols are in place within HRPT to help the homeless and improve security

Chris McGann, HRPT

- PEP offers services and usually they go through 311 to create a notification and record
- Not a standard referral because it depends on the services they will need.
- Programs like CODE BLUE - are for the winter and unsheltered people; CODE RED is for during the summer with extreme heat
- Difficult to deliver services to those who have mental issues and decline help
- Issues begin to emerge more when the homeless seek shelter in the bathrooms and the PEPs know this and are on the outlook to try and get them help

Noreen Doyle, HRPT

- Homeless people cannot be prohibited from entering a public open space and the parks

- Our officers are recognizing repeat individuals who are attracted to specific parts of the park
- Some of these are EDP and are attracted to parts of the park where they interact with other park users.

Robert Atterbury, HRPT

- The difference in HRP is that we have a closing time throughout the park of 1am
- This prevents “encampments” as homeless individuals must leave in the evenings and most of them know this
- PEPS enforces the closure of the parks

Q&A

- Mary- For those that are repetitive - is there any way to help them more consistently with more proactive outreach
 - Robert: this is done but many do not want the help and cannot be forced
 - Noreen - PEPs may be limited but work to build trust and relationships in order to get them to accept help
- Susanne - Do you know which organizations i.e.: Manhattan Outreach Consortium (supervised by CUCS) include the park in its catchment area? 3 organizations handle south of 59th Street - Riverside Goddard is one of the three and there is a new shower/overnight facility nearby
 - Michael Wiggins - I think I have seen them across from Pier 40
 - Noreen: I do not know the group by that name. I recognize Riverside Goddard
 - Chris: this is usually raised at District Cabinet, and I will ask
 - Robert: We can outreach to CUCS - we know them and the new shelter

Sanitation updates: Gansevoort, Little Island, Restaurants in Park

- Robert A- Yes there is a plan for Gansevoort and we have not seen any problems with the trash solutions sourced for Little Island (Confirmed by Jeffrey with CB4 - no news is good news)
- Mary: City Vineyards has a dumpster that is rolled out to the layby - we have found it in West Street when we come in the mornings - can you please share the contacts with us.
- Robert A: We will send Mary the info but please simply email the team so we can take care of it.

OoL issues: Pier 40 boats blast music when docking and sailing off Battery

- Dan Miller there is an uptick in the noise from the event/party boats that dock at Pier 40 on their way back to the docks at night. It has been noticed in CB1 and CB2 and although the season is over would like to bring it to the HRPT attention
- Tammy - Boats are traveling extremely close to shore (throwing distance) as they come back all along Battery Park City, they are very loud, and any help would be appreciated
- Dan can provide videos showing how loud they are dockside when they return to shore; has used the 24-hour line to report it - reported it in August
- Rob R - We recently had issues up at Pier 83 and were able to track down which boats are creating the issues. We can investigate Pier 40 boats when they return and take it up as a landlord tenant issue
- Noreen - Tammy - we can try to work with you on this, we have not heard of this issue before and can work through the issues with the appropriate agencies
- Tom - Perhaps conversations with the operator about shutting music off before they reach the dock could help as well. Also, identifying boats with the AIS system can help
 - Graeme in chat: AIS map of boats currently on NY Harbor:
<https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:-73.998/centery:40.758/zoom:13>

- Mary in chat: AIS is a cool tool. If you click on the symbol for the boat, you can see a photo of it to confirm it's the boat you're looking at. Government boats include, FDNY, NYPD and Coast Guard all show up
- Robert A - this is like the billboard boats and perhaps looking at potential solution that may exist in the same way is an option
- Jeffrey: The noise issues extend to the Manhattan Cruise Ship Terminal and Cruise Ship Horns as well, especially when they arrive/leave the dock, i.e.: Disney Theme song used as a horn signal

New/old business - committee reports, future projects

- **NEW**
 - Docking at Gansevoort: Did everyone see Rob Bucannon's note:
 - Designated Places within the NYC Water Trail; Can we create a subcommittee for waivers for the boat houses to relieve the burden so boaters can dock at Gansevoort - this is a topic for the future.
 - Robert A: We have one of the densest free kayaking water access programs in the park; there is an open RFP so cannot say much but there is a current requirement that the dock operators provide free access and maintain it to the public docs in exchange for their operators. We are happy to talk about Gansevoort in the future and Kayaks.
 - Michael Wiggins - Going back to the EDI Committee - Sharing a Community Toolkit
 - Would be nice to have the Highline Come to the AC to present their toolkit
 - <https://toolkit.highlinenetwork.org/>
 - Please take a look at the case studies as well for education and resources
 - A toolkit like this will help us ask better questions in support of our colleagues at The Trust
 - Robert Pirani
 - New York State has asked for information about public use of the state's saline waters to help inform possible future rule makings and classification changes. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/125879.html>.
 - Please take a look at the information
 - We have been helping Riverkeeper and Pratt with a public access map/survey. The deadline is Nov 28th. You can find the interactive map from our partners here. <https://wikimapping.com/water-recreation.html>.
 - Carrie: The Park has added water recreation info to the map

Motion to adjourn was seconded and approved @ 8:36PM