

**MEETING OF THE
HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pier 57, Discovery Tank Classroom
25 11th Avenue
New York, NY**

September 26, 2024 at 4:30 pm

MINUTES

Directors Present:

Patrick Foster (Chair)

Idehen Aruede

Christine Berthet

Pamela Frederick

Michael Pastor

Jeffrey LeFrancois

Purnima Kapur

Leslie Wright

Rose Harvey (left during middle of President's report)

Michael Kuh (arrived during President's report and was not present during Consent Agenda vote)

Appearances:

Hudson River Park Trust

Noreen Doyle, President and CEO

Carrie Roble, Vice President Environment & Education

Tina Walsh, Assistant Vice President Education & Outreach

Also present:

Tammy Meltzer, Advisory Council

Connie Fishman, Hudson River Park Friends

[As noted towards end of the Minutes, Ms. Connie Fishman provided the Hudson River Park Friends report at the beginning of the meeting while the remaining Directors arrived to meet the quorum requirements at around 4:39 p.m.] With a quorum being present, Chair Foster called to order the September 26, 2024 meeting of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors.

The Chair began by explaining that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted on the Trust's website, and a stenographer would provide a transcript.

He stated that the Directors had received the Agenda materials in advance of the meeting and were free to ask questions or comment at any time on the action items submitted for approval but that questions or comments from the audience would not be entertained at the meeting. He further noted that the Board memos and resolutions on today's agenda had been posted on the Trust website in the link entitled Board Meetings, Bylaws and Other Materials under Board Agendas and Minutes and thus are available to the public.

The Chair then stated that there are four items on the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of Minutes and Ratification of the Actions Taken at the July 25, 2024 Meeting of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors; 2) Authorization to Amend Contract with E-J Electric Installation Company for Gansevoort Peninsula Electrical Construction; 3) Ratification and Approval of Extension of Contract Terms for Pier 97 Building Construction Contractors and Amendment to Contract with Interphase Electric Corporation for Pier 97 Building Electrical Construction Work; and 4) Authorizations to Amend Contracts with On-Call Legal Counsel.

The Chair then called for a motion to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda. The following four Resolutions were unanimously approved by the Directors.

HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST - Approval of Minutes and Ratification of the Actions Taken at the July 25, 2024 Meeting of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Hudson River Park Trust Board of Directors held on July 25, 2024 are hereby approved by the Board of Directors, and all actions taken by the Directors present at such meeting, as set forth in the Minutes, are hereby in all respects, approved and ratified as actions of the Hudson River Park Trust, and a copy of such approved Minutes are hereby ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust.

HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST – Authorization to Amend Contract with E-J Electric Installation Company for Gansevoort Peninsula Electrical Construction

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to amend the contract with E-J Electric Installation Company for the Gansevoort Peninsula Electrical Construction for an additional amount of \$70,000 for a Total Board Authorized Amount of up to \$1,958,450; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President or the President’s designee(s) be, and each of them is hereby, authorized to take such actions as the President or the President’s designee(s) may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement the forgoing resolution.

HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST – Ratification of and Authorization to Extend the Terms of Contracts for the Pier 97 Building General Construction, Pier 97 Building Plumbing Construction, Pier 97 Building Mechanical Construction, and Pier 97 Building Electrical Construction and to Amend the Contract with Interphase Electric Corporation for Pier 97 Building Electrical Work

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby ratifies and authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to extend the term of contract with Civetta & Sons, Inc. for the Pier 97 Building General Construction Work by up to an additional one year, or August 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Board hereby ratifies and authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to extend the term of contract with Eastern Plumbing & Mechanical Contracting, Inc. for the Pier 97 Building Plumbing Construction Work by up to an additional one year, or August 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Board hereby ratifies and authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to extend the term of contract with ACS System Associates, Inc. for the Pier 97 Building Mechanical Construction Work by up to an additional one year, or August 31, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Board hereby ratifies and authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to extend the term of contract with Interphase Electrical Corporation for the Pier 97 Building Electrical Construction Work by up to an additional one year, or August 31, 2025, and to amend the contract by adding \$100,000 for a Total Board Authorization of up to \$1,499,277; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President or the President’s designee(s) be, and each of them is hereby, authorized to take such actions as the President or the President’s designee(s) may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement the forgoing resolutions.

HUDSON RIVER PARK TRUST – Authorization to Amend Legal Retainer Agreements

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to amend the contract with Carter, Ledyard & Milburn LLP by an additional amount of \$150,000 for a Total Board Authorization Amount of up to \$700,000 over the five-year contract period; and be it further

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to amend the contract with Rozario Touma, P.C. by an additional \$50,000 for a Total Board Authorization of up to \$275,000 over the five-year contract period; and be it further

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to amend the contract with Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC by an additional \$50,000 for a Total Board Authorization of up to \$250,000 over the five-year contract period; and be it further

RESOLVED, based upon the materials presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on September 26, 2024, a copy of which is ordered filed with the records of the Hudson River Park Trust, the Board hereby authorizes the Hudson River Park Trust to amend the contract with Herrick, Feinstein LLP by adding an additional \$200,000 for a Total Board Authorization Amount of up to \$395,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President or the General Counsel each is hereby authorized to take such actions as the President or the General Counsel may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement the forgoing resolutions.

Chair Foster then asked President Doyle to present the President's Report.

President Doyle began by stating that the Park is busy by the numbers of people moving through the park on a daily basis for all kinds of reasons. After several years of intense construction at multiple sites, and the various contract approvals and amendments that coincide with such construction, the Trust expects to see fewer of those. The Trust's Gansevoort, Chelsea Waterside and Science Playground projects are complete, and Pier 97 is nearly complete. There's work to be done as ever at Pier 40, but Hudson Meridian – the Trust's new Construction Manager – will be

holding most of the construction contracts directly. The Trust in the design phase for both the Estuarium and the park area from 29th-44th Streets, so while the Trust does not yet have construction contracts for those areas to approve, it does not expect that to be the case forever.

The President continued that the Trust is very focused on some capital maintenance though, and as the Directors have heard at countless public meetings over the decades, capital maintenance will eventually be both the Trust's bread and butter and its biggest financial challenge. A great deal of that will be in-water work – keeping piles in good condition so that the Trust's successors don't inherit dozens of Pier 40s, for example. She reported that on September 13, the Trust released a new RFP for construction management services for parkwide marine repair. The selected construction manager will oversee work related to repairing various sections of the bulkhead, piles, floating docks and other marine areas based on recent engineering inspections. Proposals are due on October 11, 2024, and the Trust must still secure regulatory approvals for these repairs.

She stated that at Pier 40, Hudson Meridian Construction Group began meeting with the Trust's staff after the Board approval of their contract in July to begin planning the details including phasing of projects for the next couple of years. Priorities include continued sprinkler work and addressing conditions identified in the mandatory parking garage inspection report the Trust filed with DOB last year.

The President added that another Pier 40 condition that needs to be addressed is the loading dock roof that rims the Pier 40 courtyard fields. A number of years ago, the Trust issued a bid for the work but did not advance demolition of this leaking, sagging structure due to the high demolition costs and a belief that there was likely a more efficient way to address this structure. Instead, the Trust has done certain preventative maintenance to it to address core safety concerns, but the Trust's staff does not believe this small bandaid approach will work forever. She also reported that the loading dock roof does not have a core structural function for the pier's current uses, but it is valuable in two respects. First, it provides weather protection for the hundreds of thousands of field users each year and is thus an amenity for them – particularly given the issues of climate change and increasing temperatures including those in proximity to a synthetic turf field. Second, because vehicular guard rails required for the garage need to be replaced regardless, rebuilding the loading dock roof is a possible opportunity to simultaneously create a secure structure that the new guard rail can be mounted to, without losing income generating parking

spaces. The Trust's staff has been working with one of the Trust's on-call architects to explore cost-effective options and preliminary estimates for this work to inform future discussion.

The President next reported that the Trust released an RFP for parkwide testing and inspection services on August 17 with proposals due on October 8, 2024. The Trust is also working to complete construction documents for necessary roof work at the miniature golf building and the Trust's boathouses, and to secure preliminary cost estimates for some restoration work recommended by the Trust's art consultant for certain of its permanent sculptures.

With regard to Pier 97, President Doyle relayed that contractors are progressing well on construction of the maintenance/restroom building even with the recent delays due to utility-related issues, and she appreciated the Board approving the extensions of the four building construction contracts as part of the consent agenda. The Trust expects to have the building open to the public in the winter and will continue with work with SDOT on the requirements related to securing approval for federal transportation funding for the improved bikeway and esplanade between Pier 97 and Riverside Park South. In the meantime, even though most of Pier 97 has been open since December, the project deserves a celebration before the weather gets too frigid. To that end, the Trust is beginning the process of scheduling an opening ceremony for a date TBD in October.

She continued that Marvel is preparing to meet again with the public related to the design for the 29th to 46th Street area, with the next meeting to focus on the northern portion of that area. Over the summer, the Trust met with Circle Line and the NYC Department of Transportation to introduce the project and to start developing understandings of these existing uses and their operations as related to design. The Trust also met recently with State DOT. Marvel is also currently gathering traffic data, topographic surveys and conducting additional analyses of the area.

President Doyle said that Sage and Coombe and EHDD continue to refine design concepts for the Estuarium based on the presentation made to Community Board 1. The Trust is also awaiting cost estimates based on the specific proposed design. Once the extent of the anticipated funding gap is known, she will be sharing that with the Directors.

As the President has mentioned at past meetings, the Trust has attended numerous agency and community meetings held by Battery Park City Authority related to its plans for the North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project. The southernmost portion of Hudson River Park

will be temporarily and permanently affected if that project proceeds, both in the Estuarine Sanctuary and on land.

President Doyle stated that Battery Park City Authority released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on August 28th and the Trust's staff has been reviewing the hefty document focusing on impacts expected in Reaches 1 and 2 (the areas in and adjacent to Hudson River Park) as defined in the DEIS. The Trust is pleased to report that much of its input from earlier discussions with Battery Park City Authority is reflected in the DEIS. As the Directors know, the preferred alternative now locates the flood walls on the eastern side of Route 9A rather than abutting the bikeway as originally planned. In addition, the preferred alternative crosses Route 9A at approximately Harrison Street rather than further north as originally planned, again reducing the extent of Hudson River Park area that will be affected. BPCA has also acknowledged in the DEIS that it will need to seek both a construction permit and a permanent easement from the Trust and the State, and it has committed to working with the Trust on coordinated designs and planning for the area where the two parks meet.

President Doyle continued that the DEIS does identify certain unmitigated significant adverse impacts to bicycle riders and pedestrians during construction. A below-grade, four-foot-wide diameter sewer main will need to be constructed beneath Hudson River Park's southernmost lawn in order to connect to an existing CSO; aside from ripping up the lawn temporarily and removing some trees, this new infrastructure may result in more stormwater entering into the Estuarine Sanctuary in certain conditions at the corner where the two parks meet. The Trust's Advisory Council has asked for clarification about this point among others. The proposed action also encroaches into the Estuarine Sanctuary which may reduce the extent of boating that can occur in this area in the long term as well as increasing the extent of platform coverage in the Sanctuary. On the positive side, the expansion is an opportunity to improve the connections for pedestrians moving between adjacent public open spaces.

She noted that the Trust's staff attended the DEIS public hearing on September 18 to listen to public comments and the Trust intends to submit formal comments prior to the response deadline. The Trust will share with the Directors the comment letter once prepared. The Trust has separately reminded both BPCA and the NYS Office of General Services that it will need sufficient time to discuss and agree on financial terms for the proposed easement needed by BPCA for the permanent infrastructure in Hudson River Park. It also will need sufficient time to negotiate and

issue the construction permit BPCA will need for its work in the Park. Such permit will need to consider long term maintenance requirements for BPCA infrastructure, the historic bulkhead, any loss of income from in-water operations, and the reduction in Park and Sanctuary area. BPCA expects to begin construction in late 2025. In preparing such construction permit, the Trust intends to include sufficient mitigation to protect the Park and the Park patrons to the extent feasible.

Regarding public safety, as President Doyle has previously reported, there was a fire in the 26th Street maintenance building on Saturday, August 31. FDNY responded quickly and fortunately, the concrete building was not significantly damaged. However, the Trust does need to fix the door, roof and ceiling, and have provided a notice of claim to the Trust's property insurance carrier. The Trust has some reason to believe that the fire was set by an individual lighting fire to the plantings outside the building. The Trust is grateful to staff of Manhattan Community Boathouse for quickly calling the fire into 911. The Trust's staff in Facilities and Maintenance did a fabulous job of inventorying the assets and damage and in doing a huge amount of clean up.

The President also reported that a perpetrator was arrested in connection with the September 16th, 12:30 AM assault of a female park patron sitting on a park bench near the LGBT Memorial. Fortunately, the victim was able to resist the attack and quickly escape. The perpetrator forcibly removed the victim's cell phone and fled the park east across West Street at Bethune Street. The victim was taken to a local hospital in stable condition, and the Manhattan Special Victims Unit began investigating the crime. The Trust has been working closely with the NYPD including providing valuable video footage to support the investigation and the victim's phone recovery.

She continued that, despite these incidents, overall, crime in Hudson River Park is down across the board, including petty thefts, fights and assaults, and graffiti. With that said, and as is true across many other open spaces in New York City, the Trust has also experienced an increase in disorderly or emotionally disturbed people in the Park, and PEP has been called into action for support. She mentioned that one such incident occurred on August 27 when an emotionally disturbed person sleeping in the park on the Little Island gangway assaulted two PEP officers that approached him, both of whom were injured, though fortunately not seriously. The perpetrator fled the area but was apprehended by NYPD after assaulting an NYPD officer outside of the Park two days later. Another such incident occurred on September 11 when an emotionally disturbed person

harassed a member of the Trust's horticulture staff, chasing him and throwing things at him as he cut the grass at the Pier 62 Lawn Bowl. PEP took the person into custody and referred him for psychiatric evaluation.

She reported that there were also four chain/bag snatches in August, two on the bikeway, one on the esplanade of Pier 84 immediately beside the bikeway, and one at the Circle Line garage. In three of the incidents, perpetrators travelled on bicycles or motorized scooters snatching necklaces and bags as they drove by. The Trust has assisted the 6th, 10th and Manhattan North Precincts with these investigations and provided substantial video footage.

President Doyle then turned her attention to the exciting Public Programs season. When Pier 76 opened, "learn to bike" programs were identified by some community stakeholders as an opportunity for this large, paved expanse. The Trust reached out to Bike NY subsequently and recently wrapped up another successful season of bike programming at Pier 76. From May through August, Bike NY engaged over 1,000 New Yorkers, both adults and children, helping them learn to ride and enhance their biking skills. Recently, the Trust's seasonal bike programming concluded over Labor Day Weekend with the NYC Unicycle Festival, thrilling over 1,500 attendees of all ages with one-wheeled excitement. This unique event combined circus magic with fitness and was the perfect culmination of the Trust's season-long bike programming.

The President articulated that Pier 76 was also the host for many other events, including the Trust's 24th Blues BBQ Festival on August 10th. The Trust was fortunate once again to have incredible weather that day, and the President is proud to say that over 11,000 music fans attended. Highlights included performances from the Altered 5 Band and Alexis P. Suter. This year, the Trust brought back a second stage programmed by its partner, the Jazz Foundation of America. And then there's of course the food. Enthusiasts enjoyed favorites like Jase's BBQ and Big Papa Smokem, along with newcomers such as La Newyorkina, offering refreshing Mexican paletas. This year, the Trust also introduced the Blues Dance Floor, where festival-goers learned moves from Blues Dance New York. The Trust also created the Blues Marketplace, which featured an array of hot sauces from local vendors for perfecting barbecue recipes.

President Doyle noted that anyone who's attended knows that Blues BBQ is a really special event, attracting an audience that embodies NYC and its diversity in every way. Many of the Trust's guests have told the Trust's staff that they schedule their summers around it. As mentioned, the Trust has been doing this event for almost a quarter century, back from the era before the Park

had a park full of trees and sports facilities and more. It was created as a way to start putting Hudson River Park on the map. [The President shared some pictures to the Board that are a reminder of what Hudson River Park and the Trust's summer programming looked way back then.] The Park has come a long way. More recently, the Trust partnered with the New York Latin Food Festival on Pier 76. Over 45 vendors offered savory dishes which patrons enjoyed while listening to lively music from across the Latin diaspora. About 15,000 persons attended that event.

The President then stated that at the time of the last Board meeting in late July, the Trust had just kicked off its inaugural season of Broadway by the Boardwalk, a new Monday evening concert series at Clinton Cove and supported by Hudson River Park Friends. Despite the fact that some of the performances took place in that nasty July heat wave, the series was a smashing success attracting close to 8,000 guests. Guests got to enjoy free performances from Broadway stars such as Eden Espinosa and Ramin Karimloo, and Tony Award Winner Alex Newell also joined for a surprise visit one evening, adding a special touch to the intimate setting. Aside from the obviously talented performers, one of the things that was special about this series was seeing Broadway fans and others discovering a whole new section of Hudson River Park. With the opening of Pier 97, the Trust thinks Clinton Cove is going to become a lot busier in the coming couple of years.

She continued that other events series were also popular. As ever, Sunset Salsa attracted thousands -- over 8,500 dancers, and the Trust's expanded partnership with Dance is Life welcomed 3,000 attendees and launched the Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival on July 8th, showcasing female DJs, MCs, and visual artists. Jazz was also popular throughout the six-week series. The Trust also worked with them to start programming Pier 97, launching the Blues by the Boardwalk series even while construction on Pier 97 continued.

President Doyle announced that this year, the Trust made a decision to significantly extend its free programming into the fall, when the Park is sometimes even busier than it is in summer. Currently, the Trust has got the much-loved Bollywood and Bhangra dance series on Pier 63 and it is organizing its first Festival of Lights celebrating Diwali on Saturday, October 26, also on Pier 63. And the Trust's annual post-Halloween composting adventure, Pumpkin Smash, promises to have even more squashing, smashing, and smushing fun in store for Pier 84 on Saturday November 2nd.

President Doyle noted that the Trust is still confirming the date but tentatively, on October 5, 12:00 - 4:00 PM, it will be partnering with the Chelsea Waterside Park Association for a community celebration with Face painting, music, games and other exciting activities. At Pier 84, the Trust is partnering with Friends of Pier 84 on Saturday, October 19th for the HONK! Community Celebration with music, crafts, double Dutch and more. She promised the Directors that the Trust will share flyers when it has them!

She then proceeded to thank and congratulate all the members of the Trust's Public Programs team who developed and executed the Trust's thoughtful and of course fun free programming season, with a special shout out to Andrew Ronan and Maggie Curtis for leading the team and the work. This year, the Trust made some very intentional decisions about the purpose of its programming. The Trust dropped some events and added new ones to meet goals that included offering programs across its full four miles, as well as programs that would signal welcome to ALL the Trust's communities. It took steps to introduce people to areas of the Park that are less well known (such as Clinton Cove) and to strengthen connections with cultural partners from the Trust's adjacent neighbors – Broadway, the Jazz Foundation, the Whitney Museum and other cultural partners, and numerous gyms and fitness programs that participated in its Healthy on Hudson season. The Trust increased its participatory dance programming and has at least temporarily eliminated the beautiful Dance Festival given its costs but also because the setting created inherent limits on capacity and duration. The Trust also leaned into what makes Hudson River Park special and unique – the Hudson River.

On that note, President Doyle stated that today's meeting features the Trust's annual update on its progress towards meeting goals and objectives identified in its adopted Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan and that Ms. Carrie Roble and Ms. Tina Walsh of the Trust's River Project team would present momentarily. She then acknowledged their good work and that of the whole River Project team, for the ever-expanding roster of research, science partnerships, educational programming for children and adults from across the city that they execute in service of Hudson River Park and the Trust's Estuarine Sanctuary.

The President reported that this past weekend, Hudson River Park was invited to return to the Emerson Collective's Climate Science Fair that took place on the High Line. For this three-day event, Emerson invites entrepreneurs and innovators who are working on solutions for climate-related challenges and making a difference. Hudson River Park was in the company of start-ups

and others working on creating safer, longer-lasting batteries, a company creating an alternative to plastic made of microbes that breaks down completely, and more. Working with Emerson, the Trust made the decision to use some of its punny Crab Week content to spark curiosity about what lives in the Hudson River and why it matters.

She concluded by highlighting some information provided in the Board packet. First, the Public Authorities Law section 2879 requires an annual review by the Board of service contracts with terms in excess of one year. She stated that the Directors have been provided with a list of all the Trust's active procurement contracts with a one-year term or longer. If there are any contracts the Directors would like to discuss, she asked them to let her know. The Directors were encouraged to call President Doyle, Ms. Kim Quinones, Mr. Sikander Zuberi or Ms. Christine Fazio if they need information about any of the Trust's contracts.

Similarly, when the Board adopted the Trust's Revenue Guidelines in November 2019, the Trust's staff committed to sharing a list of active revenue contracts, including leases and concession agreements with a term longer than one year, on an annual basis with the Audit Committee. A list of such qualifying revenue contracts was sent to the Directors yesterday. They were again encouraged to reach out to the Trust's senior staff mentioned earlier.

Lastly, the President stated that the Trust has also emailed the Directors the financials for the first five months of the fiscal year. Total revenues for this period were just under \$19.5 million and expenses, including capital maintenance and equipment expenditures net of reimbursements, were just under \$12.5 million. Revenues are ahead of projections, affected somewhat by seasonal variations, while expenses are under budget to date. As the Trust's mid-year is on September 30th, the Trust will provide a mid-year report to the Board at the next board meeting scheduled for November 21.

Next, President Doyle invited Ms. Carrie Roble and Ms. Tina Walsh to present the Hudson River Park's annual Estuarine Sanctuary Management Plan (ESMP) Board update. Ms. Roble and Ms. Walsh delivered an extensive and detailed overview of the Park's latest environmental and public access projects, accomplishments, and goals for the future. The update focused on key areas such as environmental education, research, habitat enhancement, public access, and the Park's

efforts in resource management, all framed within the overarching mission to sustain the Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary and its natural ecosystems.

Ms. Roble opened the session by outlining the three core management pillars of the ESMP: Environmental Education, Research & Habitat Enhancement, and Public Access & Resource Management. She explained that the ESMP, while fundamentally a strategic document guiding the management of the sanctuary, operates as a "living document" that is regularly updated to reflect new scientific findings, regulatory changes, and public feedback. With ongoing input from both the Board and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the plan adapts to emerging best practices while staying rooted in its core mission of habitat preservation and sustainable management.

As part of this adaptability, Ms. Roble noted that the ESMP was initially drafted over a decade ago and has since undergone revisions to incorporate advances in science, habitat restoration, sustainability and environmental education. The current version now includes a more robust section on adaptive management as a framework to inform shoreline and near shore habitat enhancements.

Ms. Walsh followed by discussing the Park's initiatives to enhance public access, highlighting newly opened areas such as Gansevoort Peninsula, a 5.5-acre green space and largest addition of public park in Manhattan to open directly on the river in recent years. With amenities like a salt marsh, walking paths, a public beach, and a playing field, Gansevoort serves as a model of how to integrate recreation with natural habitat areas. Additionally, Ms. Walsh detailed the newly opened Pier 26 Science Playground, which offers an immersive learning environment for children to interact with science and nature. The playground is equipped with two larger-than-life sturgeon playscapes that are interactive installations that teach about the River's ecology and foster a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age.

Ms. Walsh also emphasized the significance of Pier 97's soon-to-be-finished transformation, which will provide not just another waterfront space but an educational venue for public programming. Once complete, Pier 97 will feature new gardens, a boathouse, and spaces for outdoor learning, cementing the Trust's dedication to using the Park's spaces as conduits for both recreation and environmental education.

Ms. Walsh highlighted the growth of the Park's non-motorized boating program, which has expanded to become the largest in the Northeastern United States, offering kayaking,

paddleboarding, and rowing activities to tens of thousands of visitors annually. This initiative not only promotes outdoor recreation but also deepens the public's interaction with the waterway, encouraging environmental awareness through hands-on experiences. To ensure safety, Ms. Walsh explained that the Park has implemented comprehensive measures, including the installation of life rings and rope ladders, and offering a wide range of boating safety education courses in the Park. These steps are crucial in managing a busy waterway while maintaining the public's enjoyment and security.

In the realm of environmental sustainability, the Trust has been gradually transitioning its operational equipment to electric alternatives, reducing both noise pollution and the carbon footprint of the Park's daily maintenance tasks. Ms. Walsh pointed out that the Trust has begun to replace mowers, leaf blowers, and other maintenance tools with electric-powered counterparts, which also support the Park's mission to preserve the sanctuary's serenity while minimizing its ecological impact.

Ms. Walsh then provided an overview of the Trust's educational programs, which have reached over 4,000 students in 2024, a significant portion of whom come from underserved communities and Title I schools. These programs have been instrumental in fostering a connection between urban youth and the natural world, with a curriculum that includes hands-on activities like water quality testing, wildlife observation, and classroom workshops on marine biology. The River Project's Wetlab, an interactive aquarium that showcases species found in the Hudson River, has been particularly successful in attracting visitors, both for field trips programs and public drop-in tours. Ms. Walsh noted that the Wetlab's recent media exposure, which includes features on NBC and viral Instagram and TikTok videos, has drawn an even larger audience to the Park's educational initiatives.

In addition to educational outreach for younger audiences, Ms. Walsh emphasized the success of programs designed for adults, such as "Shoreline Strolls," which offer guided tours of the Park's Gansevoort Peninsula, and the popular "Back to School" workshops that provide hands-on science workshops focused on oyster restoration, microscopy and more. These adult-focused programs have helped expand the Park's role as a center for lifelong learning and environmental engagement.

On the research and habitat enhancement front, the Park has made impressive strides, particularly in its oyster restoration efforts. Ms. Roble shared that since the inception of this

initiative in 2021, the Park has successfully restored over 35 million oysters to the Hudson River, which now account for a quarter of New York City's entire restored oyster population. These oysters play a critical role in filtering pollutants from the water and creating natural habitat for other marine life. To monitor the health and impact of these reefs, the Trust has employed cutting-edge technologies, including environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis, underwater video surveillance, and imaging sonar, all of which provide non-invasive methods to assess the biodiversity and vitality of the sanctuary's marine ecosystems.

Ms. Roble also discussed the importance of community involvement in the Park's research efforts, particularly through initiatives like the Blue Team. This volunteer program connects the community to local stewardship projects including marine debris shoreline cleanups and oyster monitoring events. This programming was very successful in engaging New Yorkers in river-based stewardship, and the Trust has plans to build upon those successes in 2025.

Research collaborations with institutions such as the City University of New York (CUNY) have grown, with the Park hosting over 20 visiting scholars from 15 academic institutions in 2024. These partnerships extend the Park's research capacity, advancing the Park's research agenda while providing students and faculty with the opportunity to engage in applied environmental science in an urban context.

Looking ahead to 2025, Ms. Roble shared that the Park has secured a \$963,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to design a habitat restoration project north of 14th Street, expanding shallow water restoration in the Park. The Trust also has been leading meetings with partners at DEC and the Harbor Estuary Program to strengthen alignment between all three organizations' management plans and consider shared priorities. Additionally, building off the success of the Trust's partnership with CUNY's Office of Research in recent years, the Trust aims to establish a path to institutionalize this partnership in the coming year. And lastly, over the next year the Trust will also continue to advance design for the Estuarium, an educational and research facility dedicated to deepening public understanding of Sanctuary waters. As part of this process, the Trust aims to develop estimated costs for the building, which in turn will help identify the remaining funding gap.

Ms. Roble concluded the presentation by expressing gratitude for the Board's support and reaffirming the Park's dedication to the Park's Sanctuary waters. The update underscored the

Trust's long-term commitment to public access, environmental education, habitat restoration and scientific research in the Park's 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary.

The Chair introduced Connie Fishman to provide the Hudson River Park Friends report. [Ms. Fishman's report occurred at the beginning of the meeting.] Ms. Fishman reported that the Friends' Development Committee is expanding, with 25 members, including some from the Friends Board. The committee is segmenting members' interests to focus on areas like public arts, sustainability, education, and athletics, and has become a charity partner with the NYC Roadrunners, offering limited marathon bibs to fundraisers. Five new board members with diverse backgrounds have joined, and partnerships are being explored with sponsors like High Rocks and institutions like Harvard Business School and Yale School of Management for consulting and social impact projects. Friends recently concluded an internship program with Pace University students who contributed to media and communications projects. She noted a challenging fundraising season, citing increased competition among Fall galas, and invited ideas for future fundraising strategies. The annual gala is set for Thursday, October 10, at Pier 62, with cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair introduced Tammy Meltzer to provide the Advisory Council report. Ms. Meltzer provided an overview of the September meeting and began by addressing a letter being prepared by the Council and local community boards to NYSDOT on NYSDOT's planned Route 9A study. She also stated that the Council was preparing a comment letter to file with BPCA on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will state the Trust should not be responsible for maintaining the area that BPCA needs in the Park and that BPCA should look at other CSOs that direct outflow further out into the Hudson River as opposed to in the Estuarine Sanctuary for the additional rainwater to be collected from the proposed new pump station. She also mentioned that the signage in the tennis courts should be two sided so those inside or outside the courts can read the rules. She finally asked if anyone knew of additional community members interested in joining the Council.

The Chair thanked all the presenters and then asked the Directors if there was any further business for the public portion of the meeting. There being none, Chair Foster called for a motion to adjourn the public portion of the meeting and to move into Executive Session to address pending litigation and real estate matters. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM. The Executive Session ended at 6:50 PM. No action occurred during the Executive Session.