



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Katherine Diaz, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

June 28th, 2023

Hon. Deborah Marton
Public Design Commission of the City of New York
City Hall, Third Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution Supporting NYC Parks Proposed Reconstruction/Renovation of the Lily Brown Playground.

Dear Hon. Deborah Marton:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0, not voting, due to conflict, supporting the proposed design and recommends that the Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes for review, and calling on Councilmember Abreu, the Mayor, the Borough President, and any/all other elected officials to fund an additional future project to make the comfort station fully accessible.

Whereas: The Lily Brown Playground is located on Riverside Drive in the space between the Lower & Upper drives, between W. 162nd & 163rd Streets in a residential area that is somewhat isolated from "nearby" parks due to topography; and

Whereas: The playground is not accessible due to elevation and slope, its equipment is in disrepair due to aging, and the surface infrastructure is pitting and subject to pooling; and

Whereas: NYC Councilmember Shaun Abreu (7th District) allocated \$3.75 million to renovate this playground; and

Whereas: The Parks Department and Councilmember Abreu held a public input meeting on Zoom on January 19, 2023, with participation from a broad range of community members including area residents (adults, children, and seniors) who use the playground regularly, and held a second Zoom on March 7, 2023 with a satellite location at Word Up's Recirculation with translation to accommodate those area residents who do not speak English and/or who do not have access to the internet; and

Whereas: Representatives of the NYC Parks Department made a presentation on June 13, 2023, to the Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M) Parks & Cultural Affairs (PCA) Committee on Zoom for which this agenda item was well publicized and which meeting was attended by about 200 people including members of the public and representatives of elected officials, agencies, and dozens of community organizations and institutions, as well as a quorum of the Committee and additional CB12M Members; and

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Whereas: The proposed plan will add an accessible ramp with switchbacks to accommodate the slope and will include play equipment for a range of ages of children, with a variety of features that are universally accessible, including ground-play elements and climbing elements, with multiple points/methods of access, with a(n):

- wooden bridge over an area with hardy, attractive, low-maintenance plantings, and a stone path;
- separate play area for 2-5- & 5-12-year-olds;
- open area with water elements with a variety of spray features (some strong/powerful, some gentle/low) which will double as an open play area in seasons when water is not on;
- swing area with one tandem, four strap swings, one universal swing, and two bucket swings;
- chalk wall with some animals within;
- some low (3') fences to keep kids from running into the swing areas and to protect the plantings, some 7' fencing at the exterior to secure the park when it is closed, and some lower fencing within the park to allow for sidelines;
- two fountains: one for kids and one for adults which includes a bottle filler, and picnic tables for adults and for children;
- color palate of green and earth tones; and

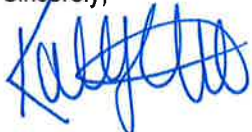
Whereas: The project will raise the grade to the comfort station so that it is a barrier-free entry, but the comfort station is not currently accessible/ADA-compliant and alteration to that facility is outside of the scope and budget of this project; and

Whereas: The timeline for this project is another six months for design, 9-12 months for procurement, and not more than 12 months for construction, with an anticipated groundbreaking in 2024 and re-opening in the 2Q/3Q of 2025; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design and recommends that the Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes for review; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls on Councilmember Abreu, the Mayor, the Borough President, and any/all other elected officials to fund an additional future project to make the comfort station fully accessible.

Sincerely,



Katherine Diaz
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Adrienne L. Adams, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Anthony Perez, Borough Commissioner NYC Parks
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member