



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

June 21, 2019

Hon. Signe Nielsen
President
Public Design Commission of the City of New York
City Hall, Third Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Provisional Resolution supporting the proposal presented by The New York Restoration Project proposal to stabilize and protect Sherman Creek Park's shoreline

Dear Ms. Nielsen:

At the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Community Board 12 Manhattan, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, passed the following resolution, supporting the proposal presented by NYRP with the proviso that the "Oyster Castles" be evaluated in Spring 2020 for their effects (if any) on waterway access for small, human-powered craft and encouraging the NYC Public Design Commission to approve this Pilot Project. Provisional approval hereby is given subject to the passage by the full Board at the June 25, 2019, General Meeting.

Whereas: The shoreline at Sherman Creek has been eroded through wave energy due to increased boat activity and the loss of salt marsh flora which have been eaten by geese; and

Whereas: The New York Restoration Project (NYRP) has previously engaged and successful wetland mitigation projects in 2004 and 2017, and now proposes to stabilize and protect approximately 600' (about 30%) of Sherman Creek Park's shoreline from erosion, to restore wetland habitats at the intertidal zone, and to create a habitat for marine biodiversity especially oysters and muscles; and

Whereas: Stackable interlocking sectional units have successfully been used in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, New Jersey's Raritan Bay, and other coastal and inland wetland areas in Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, and Alabama to create oyster habitats which clean the water and minimize wave energy of coastal waters thereby reducing coastal erosion; and

Whereas: NYRP proposes the placement this fall of a dozen such arrays approximately 13' - 20' in length, 5' wide, 30" high, and spaced about 5'-6' apart; and

Hon. Signe Nielsen
Re: Sherman Creek Park's Shoreline Proposal
June 13, 2019
Page 2

Whereas: NYRP further proposes to conduct research in Spring 2020 to measure, analyze, and report on the outcomes; and

Whereas: The proposed project will cost approximately \$500,000, of which \$100,000 is funded through an NYS DEC grant and \$400,000 is private funding through NYRP; and

Whereas: There is some concern that the oyster castles may impede waterway access for human-powered craft such as kayaks, canoes, rowboats, crew shells; and

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposal presented by NYRP at the June 11, 2019 meeting of the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee with the proviso that the "Oyster Castles" be evaluated in Spring 2020 for their impacts (if any) on waterway access for small, human-powered craft; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan encourages the NYC Public Design Commission to approve this Pilot Project.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Mitchell Silver, Parks Commissioner

Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Grace Han, Dir. Capital Project PDC
Hon. William Castro, Parks Borough Commissioner
Charlie Reynoso, NYRP