

Susan Kent, *Chair*
Valerie De La Rosa, *First Vice Chair*
Eugene Yoo, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*
Brian Pape, *Assistant Secretary*
Mark Diller, *District Manager*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.manhattancb2.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@manhattancb2.org

Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

July 7, 2023

Anthony Perez
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Perez:

At its Full Board meeting on June 22, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

1. Resolution in Support of the Dual Role of Administrator of Washington Square Park and Executive Director of The Washington Square Park Conservancy

WHEREAS:

1. Will Morrison, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) employee who since December, 2021 has filled the role of Administrator of Washington Square Park, has recently also been named as Executive Director of The Washington Square Park Conservancy (WSPC);
2. Mr. Morrison is the third person to occupy this dual position, following his two previous predecessors, George Vellonakis and Sarah Neilson;
3. Some representatives of the community expressed concerns about this dual role of Administrator of a public park as well as Executive Director of WSPC, a private 501(c) (3) organization;
4. Persons who fill this dual role receive salary from DPR and also receive payment in the form of a stipend from the conservancy;
5. The New York City Conflict of Interest Board has ruled that, given the legitimate additional duties required by his work for WSPC, the stipend does not reflect a conflict of interest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2:

- Supports the dual role of Administrator of Washington Square Park and Executive Director of The Washington Square Park Conservancy; and

- Supports the assignment of Will Morrison to this dual role; and
- Reserves the right to express a different opinion if and when a different person were to be assigned to the dual role position

Vote: Passed, with 41 Board members in favor,
2 Against (K. Berger, R. Sanz)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

RC/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member
Steve Simon, Chief of Staff, Man. Borough Commissioner

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Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Perez:

At its Full Board meeting on June 22, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

2. A Resolution Requesting Consistent and Complete Enforcement of Rules in Washington Square Park

WHEREAS:

1. Washington Square Park is a vibrant and extremely well-attended park visited by crowds of both residents and visitors to our neighborhood;
2. The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation has tried to balance enforcement of citywide rules with requests from the local community to allow free expression in the park;
3. Community members have expressed concerns about park rules and city laws being broken, even flaunted, by visitors who skateboard, ride bicycles through the park, smoke and vape (tobacco and cannabis), sell illegal drugs and openly peddle other products, sometimes setting up tables for this purpose;
4. CB2 is very concerned about the safety of park visitors who are put at risk by skateboarding activity in the park as well as the damage this activity is causing;
5. CB2 is aware that Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers and, when available, assigned NYC police officers do try to curb these activities but face challenges when doing so;
6. CB2 is aware that the recent changed state cannabis laws may be contributing to a lack of clear understanding by visitors concerning sale and use of such products in Washington Square Park;

7. Other Manhattan parks such as Madison Square Park and Central Park do not appear to allow or abide vending as seen in Washington Square Park.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2:

1. that the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation work with the local police department to find ways to control these disturbing and dangerous activities, including stronger and more consistent enforcement of existing park rules, while working with CB2 and park users to develop approaches tailored to the special needs of the park; and
2. that the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation review its current policies and consider changes that would reduce activities that endanger the safety of visitors, particularly senior citizens, e.g., skateboarding.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Vote: Passed, with 42 Board members in favor.
1 Against (R. Kessler)

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

RC/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
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Manhattan Borough Commissioner
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Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Fl.
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Perez:

At its Full Board meeting on June 22, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

3. A Resolution in Support of plan for updating William F. Passannante Ballfield

WHEREAS:

1. Representatives of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) presented a plan for the reconstruction of William F. Passannante Ballfield, an asphalt covered, multi-purpose active play space located at Houston St. between McDougal St and Ave. of Americas;
2. Many different sports are played in this park including basketball, kickball, pickleball, roller hockey, softball, foursquare, etc., by adults and children;
3. DPR representatives explained that an entirely new asphalt layer is required to repair cracks that have developed over the years;
4. The design schematic presented showed painted lines and different colors for fields, courts and rinks;
5. The project is scheduled to begin in late August and is expected to take four months to complete, during which time the park will be closed;
6. The park is mostly unpermitted open play space with two exceptions - weekend times for roller hockey and pickleball;
7. Most attendees welcomed the plan and expressed a shared interest in maximizing flexibility and adaptability so that sports can coexist, but opinions differed on aspects of the design including

number of pickleball court and overlapping painted lines as well as the processes for granting permits and enforcement of them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 2:

1. Endorses the plan to rebuild the ballfield as described by DPR as well as the goals expressed and the schematic presented, though it is not entirely clear how overlapping play will work without understanding the permit process; and
2. Encourages the DPR to determine the process by which permits will be granted and enforced; and
3. Suggests that park rules and the goal of co-existing play and any permits granted be posted online and at the entrances to the park; and
4. Requests that the needs of and usage by local schools be considered priorities including the timing and duration of the construction since closure will impact recess and after school activities; and
5. Looks forward to the installation of the new surface, the planting of new trees and the installation of improved water fountains included in the plan for the rebuilding of this important community space for active recreation.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Vote: Unanimous, with 43 Board members in favor.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

RC/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
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