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CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**  
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May 8, 2018

Madelyn Wils  
Hudson River Park Trust Pier 40, 2nd Floor  
353 West Street  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: Pier 97**

Dear Ms. Wils,

The Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (the "Committee") of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) thanks you for your presentation to the Committee on behalf of the Hudson River Park Trust (the "Trust") on April 12, 2018, regarding potential development ideas for Pier 97.

As was discussed, this presentation was just the first step in the process of deciding on a design for Pier 97. Based on the community input received, the Trust will develop a Request for Proposals, which will be evaluated using the Trust's usual criteria, including meeting community needs and wants. The Trust will continue to make presentations to the Committee throughout the process, so that the community will be engaged at all significant milestones along the path of development of Pier 97.

To reiterate some of what was discussed at the April 12th meeting, the community made the following suggestions for Pier 97 (in no particular order):

- 1) Both Clinton Cove (despite the bird issue) and the nearby portion of Riverside South are intended for passive recreation. Thus, it was requested that Pier 97 be focused (although not exclusively) on active recreation.
- 2) Some activities, such as basketball and volleyball, are greatly influenced by the wind coming off of the Hudson. Thus, these activities would be better situated on the upland area, instead of on the pier itself.

- 3) There was a strong sentiment (as expressed in letters received by MCB4 before the April 12th meeting) that a skate park NOT be included as part of Pier 97. This does not preclude inclusion of a skate park, but we ask that the community's preference be given due consideration.
- 4) Members of the community indicated that any ballfield space, including for "mini-soccer" as exists on downtown piers, would be very welcomed.
- 5) Given the age of the nearby population and the dearth of other suitable facilities, a playground would be a good addition. It was suggested that the "water creatures" concept that exists in other playgrounds in Hudson River Park be continued at Pier 97, including a water feature at Pier 97.
- 6) A flexible space that could be used for both active and passive recreation, such as a zone that could be used for yoga that could double for sunbathing when not in use, was of interest.
- 7) The far west end of the pier should make use of the views of the river.
- 8) The community asked that a Citibike stop be investigated for the upland area, especially in connection with plans to improve the bike path areas in the area around Piers 97-99 and the connection to Riverside South. In this regard, it was asked that Con Edison be approached about moving their equipment further west on Pier 99, to allow more room for the bike path.
- 9) If a water taxi is incorporated at Pier 97, it should be on the north side of the pier, so as to minimize interference with Manhattan Community Boathouse located at Pier 96.
- 10) It was suggested that specific attention be given to the north side of the pier, as both views and direct exposure to the sun tend to encourage people to the south side of the pier.
- 11) For access to the park, it was asked that the Trust investigate an elevated walkway over Route 9A. If this is enacted, which may cause other unforeseen issues, we would request an elevator be installed to make the walkway ADA accessible.
- 12) Other ideas included community gardens, a rotating art display and a creative sundial using park features.
- 13) It may be helpful to have public visioning sessions throughout the entire process (in addition to keeping MCB4 involved).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it was suggested that the Trust conduct a survey to solicit the community's preferences for development at Pier 97.

The Committee looks forward to our continued conversation regarding the development of Pier 97.

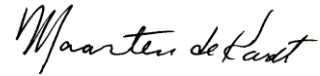
Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4



Lowell Kern  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee



Maarten de Kadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
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