



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

January 13, 2020

Madelyn Wils
President
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40
New York, NY 10014

Re: Renovation of the Chelsea Waterside Park

Dear Ms. Wils,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”), at its December 4th Full Board meeting, by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, wishes to express its appreciation for the introduction provided by the Hudson River Park Trust (“HRPT”) to the Waterside, Parks & Environment Committee (“WPE”) of MCB4 at its November 14th meeting of the landscape architecture firm selected by HRPT, Abel Bainnson Butz, LLP (“ABB”), that was chosen to redesign the southern portion of Chelsea Waterside Park (“CWP”).

CWP, which was first developed almost 20 years ago, underwent a significant redesign and upgrade to the children’s play area and basketball court within the last two years. The southern portion of the park, which currently consists of a dog run, a temporary picnic area, extensive plantings, seating and the center corridor leading to the rest of Hudson River Park (the “Park”), is now scheduled for renovation.

At the WPE meeting, the committee and members of the public, including representatives of the Chelsea Waterside Park Association, identified several areas of concern:

- East-West Walkway between Eleventh Avenue & Rte. 9 (West Side Highway):

The wide walkway serves as a conduit to the Park, event space and compost collection area. WPE and the public were divided as to whether this center walkway should be retained.

- The temporary picnic area, which was relocated to the grass area following the redesign of the playground, was seen as a benefit to CWP. The renovation should include a new, permanent picnic area with a non-grass drainable surface, traditional picnic tables and convenient access to a drinking fountain. It should be located near the playground and should have protection from the sun.
- The dog run has long outgrown its original design as the dog population in the area has dramatically increased. The infrastructure is both outdated and in need of a total expansion. WPE and the public requested the following:
 - Expanded area for large dogs
 - A separate area for small dogs
 - Smooth, cleanable surface
 - Multiple drains
 - Retractable hoses that reach all areas for easy cleaning
 - Water fountains with dog bowl attachment
 - Limit height of terrain diversity to allow for sight lines
 - New water pool with in-ground sprinklers
 - Sufficient lighting for night-time use
 - Proper signage for dog park regulations
- The renovation of CWP must include a comfort station and parking area for strollers outside of the playground.
- Introduction of more native plantings and preservation of existing trees.

We look forward to ABB's presenting its proposal for the redesign of the southern part CWP to a future meeting of WPE.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Lowell Kern
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee

Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee

Cc: Zazel Loven, CWPA