



**Lowell D. Kern**  
Chair  
**Jesse Bodine**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**  
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April 15, 2021

Robert Hammond  
Co-Founder & Executive Director  
Friends of the High Line  
The Diller – von Furstenberg Building  
820 Washington Street  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: High Line Stair Design – 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup> Streets**

Dear Mr. Hammond,

The Waterfront Parks and Environment Committee found the presentation of the design for the new entrance/exits of the High Line at 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets informative and timely. We want to thank Patrick Hazari and his team of Maritza Carmona, Katie Riley and Brian Stern for their work and for their responsiveness at the committee's March 11, 2021 meeting.

In particular, we appreciated the design of the new stairs at each of these locations. While slightly different, they all increased the pedestrian experience at street level, widened the stairs themselves, improved the individual steps, improved the entrance area at the railroad level, integrated the new stairs into the High Line experience, and acknowledged the cutting of the historic rail with appropriate features. Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its April 7<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting, by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible, voted to approve the new design.

However, MCB4 also unanimously expressed two serious concerns:

1. MCB4 has been requesting Green Energy use be included in the design of every new project that comes before us. We don't understand why the energy for the lighting on the new stairs is not green, whether it be solar or some other form of alternative energy (wind, motion, battery, and so on or some combination of these). We request that the design be changed to include alternative energy.
2. We were informed that the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Street stairs will be closed during construction. The argument made was that the number of visitors will be restricted to the High Line

during construction just as it has been during the COVID period. The committee believes that construction will occur (late 2021) during a period when COVID restrictions can be relaxed and that therefore more people will be using the High Line. And even if access continues to be restricted during the construction period, the committee believes alternative emergency entrances/exits need to be temporarily installed at these locations. We request that these emergency entrances be included in the construction design.

We thank the High Line/Parks team for their presentation. We very much appreciate being kept up to date on these plans and look forward to continuing to collaborate about High Line changes.

Sincerely,



Lowell Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks, & Environment Committee



Maarten deKadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

Cc: Brian Stern, NYC Parks