



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

MICHELLE SOLOMON
Acting District Manager

April 5, 2006

Jennifer M. Hoppa
Deputy Director of Planning
City of New York Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
New York, NY 10021

Re: High Line design

Dear Ms. Hoppa:

The Waterfront and Parks Committee of Manhattan Community Board No 4 would like to thank you and your team very much for your presentation to us of the design for Section 1 of the High Line. In general we were all very excited about the design as well as the fact that the project is moving forward. You asked us to provide you with specific comments regarding the design, and committee members made several suggestions which are captured in this letter, which was adopted by the full Community Board at its regular monthly meeting on April 5, 2006.

Following are a synopsis of these comments. No sense of priority or importance should be inferred from the order, as they were simply compiled from comments provided at random from committee members and others present at the committee meeting.

It was suggested that a meeting of the High Line design team with the developers of Pier 57 (the Witkoff Group) should take place to explore how a proposed bridge from the High Line to Pier 57 might interface with the High Line itself.

It was suggested that the project have an ongoing horticulture staff for maintenance. In addition, there should be an outreach to horticulture schools as well as the local High School for Environmental Studies, for interns. Another suggestion was to create an apprenticeship program and/or a Junior Master Gardener Program.

There was a concern about how dogs would be handled on the High Line.

There was a request to make sure there that the design provides adequate light under the 10th Avenue intersection.

Another suggestion was to make sure that sustainability be part of the design as well as the ongoing operation. One idea discussed was the retention of rainwater for irrigation purposes. We understand

that ideas for building tanks under the High Line for this purpose were considered but rejected as too expensive, but that a plan to store water under the planks was being considered. We encourage this plan as well as any other ideas that conserve energy and resources.

There is a concern that the design, which includes such features as planks that curve up to form benches, for example, might be an unwelcome attraction for skateboarders. DPR responded that they are aware of this potential and have some ideas in development to address it.

It was also suggested that DPR consider ways to provide a best possible “underneath” experience. DPR suggested that they will permit shops and restaurants under the High Line to use the High Line itself directly as a roof, with a requirement that the underneath architecture be preserved and visible in such cases. We encourage ideas of this nature, to both preserve the historic nature of the structure itself as well as to visually enhance the underside of this elevated park.

Finally, it was suggested that salt be avoided on the High Line as a way of melting ice and snow in winter.

As is apparent, many of the comments dealt with operational issues or simple suggestions on enhancements – the design it self was well received by all. We look forward to a continuation of this dialog as plans progress. With the combined energies of DPR, the Friends of the High Line and the involved community, what began as a great idea can only get better.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Kristin Dionne
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Local Elected Officials
Friends of the High Line