



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**DELORES RUBIN**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

December 12, 2016

Connie Fishman  
Friends of Hudson River Park  
305 Seventh Avenue  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

**Re: Concept design for Chelsea Waterside Playground**

Dear Ms. Fishman,

The Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee as well as MCB4 by its approval of this letter at the full Board meeting of December 7, 2016, thank you for your periodic update of the progress both in funding and design of the redesign and rebuilding of the Chelsea Waterside Playground at the western end of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and particularly your most recent presentation on November 10, 2016. Your progress has been remarkable. We look forward to using the completed playground by early 2018.

The committee, though pleased with your progress, has expressed several concerns.

- Members expressed concern that the rebuilding of this well used space not occur at the same time other playgrounds in the immediate vicinity are also closed for repair or renovation.
- The committee expressed strong feelings that the picnic area not be moved to the west side of the highway. Members suggested the slope just to the south of the playground be considered as an alternative.
- A suggestion was made that children be included in the design and maintenance of the playground's plantings.
- The committee was pleased to learn that many of the building materials and ornamentations are being repurposed from other uses. This reuse of materials is commendable. A request was made that the designers include identification of the original uses of those materials.
- The committee was pleased to learn that water use would be controlled by 'on' buttons at each water feature. You told us that the ability to control the water feature by its users has greatly reduced water usage at other playgrounds.

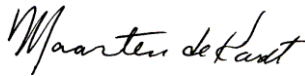
- We were disappointed to learn that capture of rain water, other than an expansion of permeable areas of the playground, was not being considered because of the too expensive requirement of water cleanup and filtration. We ask that you revisit these requirements especially as it pertains to rain water and its beneficial reuse especially with regard to plant watering.
- We understand that a comfort station, because of its expense, would delay the reconstruction of the playground. We were pleased to learn that the siting of a future comfort station is included in the plan as presented but were unclear if the infrastructure required for that facility is included in the park's redesign (water, sewage and electric). We understand that fundraising for such a facility would be on going with the hope that you will periodically report on its progress. We look forward to learning when such a much needed facility would be installed.

Thank you once again for your informative presentation. We look forward to your next progress report.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair



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



Lowell Kern,  
Co-chair  
Waterfront, Parks &  
Environment Committee

Cc: Hudson River Park Trust