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**Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 4th, 2018, 7:00 PM**  
**Community Board Six Office, 211 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Mark Thompson, Chair; Pamela Vassil, Vice Chair; Marty Barrett; Aaron S. Humphrey; Rajesh Nayar; Kathy Thompson; Samuel Albert; Dean Stefanides

**Excused:** Amelia Acosta; Adam Hartke; Gary Papush; Gene Santoro

**Absent:** Ronnie White

**Guests:** Keishel Williams, CUNY Journalism School; Lou Sepersky, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) Member; Jack Collins, East End Hockey; Elizabeth Masella, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Jan Armstrong, Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA); David Hu, H2N; Keitaro Nei, H2N

**Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Chair Mark Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

A motion was made and approved to adopt the agenda.

A motion was made and approved to adopt the minutes from the June 5, 2018 meeting.

**Committee Business**

*Agenda Item #1: Presentation by DPR on a new public art project for Dag Hammarskjold Plaza*

Elizabeth Masella, the Public Art Coordinator at DPR, gave a presentation on a Temporary Public Art Installation by Marcos Lutyens called *Universal Solvent*. The installation will be at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in Manhattan from October 2018 until March 2019.

*Universal Solvent* is a bench sculpture with a smartphone-acquired sound component that takes listeners into the world of water. Located on the plaza platform, the bench is made out of water-jet cut, polished aluminum. The surface is buffed and smooth but also irregular to prevent skateboarders from sliding along the edge or using it as a “rail.” It will be secured with lag bolts to gabion baskets filled with rocks. The sculpture will not be anchored – it will rest on the pavers of the sculpture platform.

The sound component explores myths and realities linked to the world of water, encouraging discussions about water and its importance to life across the planet. The sculpture’s audio is smart phone-based and without the need for amplified sound. Instructions on how to access the sound recording will be on a signage posted nearby and distributed by social media and press materials so that audiences can also listen to it remotely.

Committee Member Samuel Albert asked how much the installation will weigh. Elizabeth Masella said that it will weigh 1,200 pounds. The committee made a motion of support. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously 8-0.

*Agenda Item #2: Certificate of Appropriateness to renovate the entire townhouse at the landmarked building at 236 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street to create a multi-family residential building that comprises four dwelling units*

David Hu and Keitaro Nei from H2N gave a presentation on a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 236 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street to create a multi-family residential building that comprises four dwelling units. The applicants want to maintain most of the existing exterior conditions but will do the following exterior work: add a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible ramp and steps at the front areaway; add new French doors at the basement level rear yard; remove the existing bulkhead and replace with a new code-compliant bulkhead; replace a window at the rear façade; add a new entry door at the street façade; add new exterior light fixtures, an intercom, and a security camera; remove the existing fire escape at rear; remove the existing flue at the rear yard and replace it with a new flue at the east property line; and add a new air conditioner unit on the roof. They will also widen the inside staircase to bring it up to fire code and add an elevator.

During a question and answer session on this topic, committee members and guests expressed concerns about noise, hours of operations, duration of work, and unforeseeable problems. Mr. Hu and Mr. Nei assured committee members and guests that not much noise will be made because they’re not doing structural work. They also added that renovation will only take 8-9 months, that the work will only take place during the standard Department of Buildings 7AM-6PM construction hours, and that the only noise residents will hear should come from the escalating staircase and adding the elevator. The committee passed a resolution of no objection for the Certificate of Appropriateness, 8-0.

### *Agenda Item #3: Parks Department Report*

Wesley Hamilton from DPR reported that Dag Hammarskjold Plaza has a string concert on September 9<sup>th</sup> and Albano will be having "Movies Under the Stars" on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He also informed the committee that we have a new Partnership for Parks Outreach Coordinator, Ashley Kuenneke. He mentioned that the Free Little Library launch in Stuyvesant Square Park went well, and that dead trees were removed.

He spoke about capital projects for Sutton Place Park, which will have concrete poured this week. He mentioned that St. Vartan Park has a pre-scoping meeting next Monday for capital projects to turn the multipurpose park into a play area, and that Bellevue South Park will have concept planning meeting based off of their pre-scoping meeting sometime next month. Additionally, he reported that Glick Park repairs seem to be on schedule. Mr. Hamilton then fielded questions from committee members and guests. Committee Member Marty Barrett asked about the proposed walkway bridge in Sutton Place Park on 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Hamilton stated that there is no real update as of yet. Committee Member Aaron Humphrey informed the committee and Mr. Hamilton of Bellevue South Park's "It's My Park Day" event which will take place Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM-1PM, and that drug dealers have been making their push to reclaim Bellevue South Park. Friends of Bellevue South Park and their Kips Bay Neighborhood Association sister group met with Ashley Kuenneke last week and requested more Parks Enforcement Police at Bellevue South Park. The group then met Micro Unit Building Super Jay afterwards near his building on 27<sup>th</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Mt Carmel Place to discuss the mall area and its increased criminal and quality of life crimes in addition to a recent murder committed there by the homeless who frequent and sleep overnight in mall area. Jay wants mall gates located adjacent to his building closed and locked overnight, and has even volunteered to do the daily task but doesn't know which city agency has jurisdiction since it's on a closed city street but has DPR signage inside the gated mall area. Chair Thompson and Mr. Hamilton said they'll look into it. Chair Thompson also wants CB6 to add the waterline for Detmold Park into its capital budget sometime soon.

Mr. Hamilton informed the committee that the roller hockey park may not be included in St. Vartan Park's future plans. Some committee members and guests expressed outrage because the skating roller hockey playing area was supposed to be included in St Vartan Park's future plans. It's part of United Nations-Robert Moses Park land exchange's Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Chair's Report**

Mark formally introduced new Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee public members Dean Stefanides and Sam Albert. Mr. Stefanides lives on 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Beekman Place and is President of the Beekman Place Association.

Mr. Albert lives in Gramercy North, is part of his building's board, is a professor, and the Vice President of the Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats.

Mark asked committee member Kathy Thompson to briefly discuss her Little Free Library success and introduce Jan Armstrong, the new steward for the Little Free Library at Stuyvesant Cove Park. Kathy informed the committee that Stuyvesant Town is thinking about doing multiple Little Free Libraries. The 34<sup>th</sup> Street Ferry stop could be another possible location if someone's willing to do it. Committee member Pamela Vassil told the committee that the Little Free Library made CB6's newsletter.

### **Old/New Business**

CB6 member Lou Sepersky asked if the committee would pass a resolution for capital improvement money for Ralph Bunche Park's bluestones located on First Avenue between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Streets on south end of park. Chair Thompson said Committee Member Marty Barrett will look into it on the capital budget first then report back to us.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded for meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Aaron S. Humphrey