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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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September 23, 2019

Madelyn Wils
President & CEO
Hudson River Park Trust
353 West Street, Pier 40, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10014

Dear President Wils:

At its Full Board meeting on September 19, 2019, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

A Resolution In Support of the Design Concepts for the Gansevoort Peninsula section of Hudson River Park

Whereas:

1. The design process for Gansevoort Peninsula, the 5.56-acre space in Hudson River Park located between Gansevoort and Little W. 12th Streets, is being run by the Hudson River Park Trust and its hired consultants, James Corner Field Operations; and
2. This design team has met with the community on multiple occasions to date, starting with introduction at our committee meeting on March 6, 2019, followed by a Community Input Workshop on March 26, 2019, followed by a presentation of design concepts on July 24, 2019, and attendance to provide updates and answer questions at our September 10, 2019 CB2 Parks & Waterfront Committee meeting; and
3. The design team has also provided an online system to receive community input contributions; and
4. The design team has pledged to hold at least 3 more Community Input Workshops – in early Fall, late Fall, and early Winter – before the design is finalized; and
5. Our committee held a meeting to gather public opinion in a forum independent of the Trust and the design team and wrote a resolution regarding the design process at our May 2019, committee meeting; and
6. The design concepts and preliminary plan presented at the meeting on July 24, 2019, and discussed at our September 10, 2019, committee meeting included renderings showing an upland beach and the *Day's End* art installation on the south side; a lawn with seating just north of the beach; a sports field; a dog run; an adult fitness area; a one-story building with restrooms, concessions and maintenance storage; a salt marsh to the north of an access road; and a promenade with trees, picnic tables, and lounge chairs on the western edge; and
7. Many who attended our meetings in July and September expressed that they were pleased by the development of the park design, admiring its beauty and the efforts of its designers to balance the interests of different constituents, but attending community members requested that additional considerations be addressed as the design is further refined; and

8. Requests for consideration to be reviewed and included in the design of Gansevoort Peninsula Park included the following:
 - a. Infrastructure be put in place to allow for easier expansion of the recreational amenities should they be desired and funded in the future, such as a stanchion for a bubble to allow winter play, an indoor space for education and training, and locker rooms;
 - b. Plentiful opportunities be spread throughout the peninsula for play and fitness for parkgoers that are not members of permitted sports teams;
 - c. Designs for the southern edge of the peninsula be reviewed and improved to make for expanded, easier, safe pedestrian access to the water and fuller enjoyment of the southern view and of the planned *Day's End* art installation;
 - d. Paving on the truck turnaround in the northwest corner be constructed of materials so as to allow the space to be used as a play area when not occupied by emergency vehicles;
 - e. Finding a location for adult fitness activities, which were in an earlier design but displaced by the larger field option, possibly split across more than one location; the design team pledged to try to incorporate these features in revised designs;
 - f. Water fountains (including for re-filling bottles) be installed within easy reach of playing fields;
 - g. A sufficient number of toilets to accommodate children and adults;
 - h. Neighborhood sports leagues be consulted on questions, opportunities and issues such as lines that will be painted on the playing fields; the height and placement of safety nets; anticipated equipment such as goals, backstops, mounds and storage thereof; and other matters regarding team play; and
9. Requests for consideration involving the operation of Gansevoort Peninsula Park included that:
 - a. A portion of play space on the sports field be non-permitted to accommodate children and adults who are not members of organized sports teams;
 - b. Permits posted online and at the field;
 - c. Access to the water be openly available at all hours that the park is in operation; and
10. Requests for consideration involving the broader operation of HRPT included that:
 - a. HRPT calculate and provide Open Space Data, i.e., acres in HRP classified as passive recreational space; of permitted active recreational spaces; and of non-permitted active recreational space, by park location, both piers and upland areas, including what is DOT vs. HRP, throughout the land area of the Park - similar to what the NYC Parks Department provides;
 - b. HRPT improve online access to parkgoers interested in the occupancy status of playing fields throughout the park, i.e., list of permitted locations in HRP and online list of permits by location, by date and by time, again, similar to what the NYC Parks Department provides.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that CB 2, Manhattan:

1. Supports the process, design concepts and plans presented to this point in the project; and
2. Supports the decision to choose the option of a larger sports playing field version of the design featuring a field measuring roughly 316' x 220', which will enable age 13 and under regulation fields for soccer and baseball as well as practice opportunities for leagues for older players; and
3. Looks forward to reviewing recommendations by the design team for including adult fitness features in one or more locations; and
4. Seeks to continue to be able to offer input and have its community input addressed in further iterations of the plan; and
5. Is particularly interested in reviewing design alternatives for the southern edge of the peninsula, particularly improved opportunities for access to the water; and
6. Requests open access by the public to data about permits that will be granted for use of permitted fields as well as times for public use of unpermitted open spaces.

VOTE: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks & Waterfront Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker