

Tobi Bergman, *Chair*  
Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*  
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*  
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Keen Berger, *Secretary*  
Susan Wittenberg, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: [info@cb2manhattan.org](mailto:info@cb2manhattan.org)

Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

February 20, 2015

William T. Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Borough Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on February 19, 2015, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution Regarding the Planned Renovation of Father Fagan Park**

#### **Whereas**

1. The project to redesign and redevelop Father Fagan Park has been in process for nearly 4 years.
2. In March 2011, Community Board 2 passed a resolution that noted the space "cries out for reconstruction".
3. In June 2011, the City Council allocated \$1.5 million for this project.
4. In March 2012, the Parks Department held a scoping meeting at the site in conjunction with our committee and forty members of the local community participated in this event, expressing their enthusiasm and ideas for the project.
5. In July 2013, the Parks Department presented a preliminary design at our Community Board 2 Parks committee, received and accepted feedback from the committee and the many members of the local community that attended the meeting, and pledged to update the design accordingly. Community Board 2 reiterated support for the project by passing another resolution.
6. In March 2014, already three years after the project was funded, after delays apparently caused by the need for changes at the request of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Parks Department agreed to present a revised design at our Community Board 2 Parks Committee meeting. However, the presentation was cancelled and we were informed by the Manhattan Parks Commissioner's office that DEP was still unwilling to sign off on the design.
7. The community and our committee have been waiting since then for an explanation, and for

- resolution, but communication between the two agencies has stalled.
8. This delay appears to be contrary to stated administration goals.
  9. Father Fagan is a well-used Park with broken benches, dead and dying trees, and dangerously uneven pavement; renovation is important to the residents and businesses of the local community.

**Therefore it is resolved,** that CB2:

1. Respectfully requests that the Parks Department and the Department of Environmental Protection take appropriate action to assure expeditious resolution of the discussions between their two agencies and resolve whatever issues remain so that this project, which was funded almost four years ago, can move past the design phase.
2. Urges that a revised, approved design be presented jointly by both agencies at our next CB2 Parks and Waterfront Committee meeting on March 4th.

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 37 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Daniel Squadron, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Speaker  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member

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February 20, 2015

Faith Rose, Executive Director  
Public Design Commission of the City of New York  
City Hall, Third Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Rose:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on February 19, 2015, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution Regarding the Planned Renovation of the Triangle west of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, between Spring Street and Broome Street (currently called Soho Square)**

#### **Whereas**

1. This Park, commonly known as Soho Square, is an under-utilized and under-appreciated space but has the potential for great improvement in appearance and usage if redesigned and renovated;
2. The Hudson Square Connection, the local BID organization, and the Parks Department, see this space as the gateway to the recently rezoned, dramatically changing, and quickly expanding (in terms of residents and businesses) area known as Hudson Square
3. They presented to the CB2 Parks & Waterfront Committee a design depicting how the Park will be improved by becoming a more welcoming gathering space, a more beautiful setting, and a safer environment, including increased pedestrian safety around the perimeter; The presented design showed a variety of accessible seating types to accommodate both individual and social seating, including benches, movable bistro-like tables and chairs, and single swivel seats. Currently, the space offers two tables and 68 seating locations created from 40 benches; in the new design there will be 281 total seating locations and significantly more tables;
4. The presented design showed increased and improved lighting. Currently, there are 7 lighting fixtures covering the area; the new design proposes to add another 11 DOT-approved, downward projecting light poles positioned just under the trees, under bench lighting, LED spotlights on the statue, and a unique presentation called "moonlighting" via 3 light poles that will illuminate down through the trees to create shadow patterns;
5. The presented design showed dramatically increased vegetation. Currently, there are 36 healthy trees and no ground level plantings; the new design proposes adding 6 more trees and covering 24% of the site with shrubs, grasses and ferns providing "four season interest," all supported through a significant

- increase in permeable services and storm water retention.
6. The presented design showed four new solar powered trash and recycling receptacles and a drinking fountain; today there are none of these amenities;
  7. The presented design anticipates the relocation of a Citi bike docking station that currently resides within the Park to a nearby area outside the Park, which is consistent with a resolution passed by CB2 on this topic;
  8. The presented design showed relocation of the statue of Jose Artigas into the center of the space;
  9. The project presented is fully funded, both the construction work, which including this design phase is expected to cost \$6M, and ongoing maintenance, which is estimated at \$110K annually;
  10. Hudson Square Connection and the Parks Department are considering renaming the Park; the Parks Commissioner is empowered to do so.

**Therefore it is resolved,** that CB2:

1. Supports this project, the design of which was presented by the Hudson Square Connection and the Department of Parks and Recreation to our committee and the community,
2. Encourages the Hudson Square Connection and Department of Transportation to continue to pursue the possibility of expanding the Park and/or pedestrianizing Little Sixth Avenue.
3. Does not object to a name change that reflects the broader community location better than is captured today by the name Soho Square.

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 37 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c:
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  - Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
  - Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
  - William Castro, DPR Manhattan Borough Commissioner
  - Margaret Forgione, DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner
  - Ellen Baer, Hudson Square BID President