

Jo Hamilton, *Chair*
Bo Riccobono, *First Vice Chair*
Sheelah Feinberg, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Erin Roeder, *Treasurer*
Susan Kent, *Secretary*
Elaine Young, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

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March 31, 2011

Christine Quinn
Speaker of the Council
224 W. 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

Robert Redmond
Director of Capital Budget
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

Dear Speaker Quinn, Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro and Mr. Redmond:

At its Full Board meeting on March 24, 2011, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolution:

A resolution requesting capital reconstruction of Father Fagan Park.

Whereas Father Fagan Park is a 1/2-acre triangular sitting area located at Spring Street and Sixth Avenue that includes land that was once part of Macdougall Street; and

Whereas this is a well-used park attracting neighbors, employees of nearby businesses, tourists, and children, and providing important opportunities for respite on a busy street in an area with insufficient public open space; and

Whereas the park is one of a group of parks that were built and/or rebuilt in a common style in 1960, also including Duarte Square, Soho Square, Little Red Square, as well as some smaller pedestrian areas; and

Whereas these areas have not been renovated in over 50 years, and

Whereas all other parks in CB2 have been renovated more recently or are currently undergoing renovations; and

Whereas reconstruction of these parks has been a high CB2 capital budget priority for years; and

Whereas reconstruction of Duarte Park is anticipated in conjunction with private development of an adjacent site in coming years and the Hudson Square BID has expressed interest in leading a project for reconstruction of Soho Park; and

Whereas the highest CB2 priority for capital expenditures for parks remains the construction of new parks at the sites of water tunnel shaft construction sites but these projects will not be ready for projects in the coming fiscal year; and

Whereas over a period of years neighbors have complained about conditions at Father Fagan Park included depressed and degraded paving, deteriorating and missing benches, poor lighting, dead and missing trees, and the lack of attractive plantings; and

Whereas current conditions are unattractive, difficult to maintain, and potentially dangerous; and

Whereas the park was named for Father Richard Fagan who was called to duty at St. Anthony's Church in 1936 and lived at the rectory at 151 Thompson Street; and

Whereas the rectory caught fire in the early morning of November 4, 1938, and after escaping, Father Fagan re-entered the building to rescue Father Louis Vitale and then again to rescue Father Bonaventure Pons; and

Whereas Father Fagan was severely injured when he was forced to jump from a window to escape and he died of his injuries the following day at the age of twenty-seven; and

Whereas Fire Department Captain John J. Drennon, and Firefighters James F. Young and Christopher J. Siedenburg from the nearby firehouse lost their lives responding to a fire at 62 Watts Street on March 28, 1994; and

Whereas three Callery Pair trees were planted and three bronze plaques were placed at the northwest corner of Father Fagan Park in memory of these men who lost their lives protecting our neighbors; and

Whereas these trees have died and one of the three plaques is missing; and

Whereas nearby neighbors have long demonstrated their commitment to our parks through their voluntary efforts to maintain a beautiful garden at Clarkson Plaza, across the street from Father Fagan Park; and

Whereas the sidewalk in front of Clarkson Plaza is severely depressed and degraded and the volunteers have expressed the need for access to water for irrigation; and

Whereas neighbors have expressed interest in a similar effort at Father Fagan Park once it is in manageable condition; and

Whereas 22 neighbors came to a duly called public hearing held on March 2, 2011, and spoke in favor of reconstruction of the park; and

Whereas a petition signed by 517 people, many of whom are nearby residents, was submitted to CB2; and

Whereas no one spoke against reconstruction of the park; and

Whereas an estimate prepared by the Parks Department indicates the cost of reconstruction of the park will be approximately \$1.25 million, including the part owned by the Department of Parks and the former Macdougall streetbed owned by the Department of Transportation; and

Therefore it is resolved that the repair of this park is needed to continue to properly honor Father Fagan, Captain Drennan, and Firefighters Young and Siedenburg, and to improve the neighborhood for which they sacrificed their lives; and

It is further resolved that CB2 hereby adjusts its priorities for capital projects such that this project takes the place of construction of new parks at water tunnel shaft construction sites for FY2011/12; and

It is further resolved that CB2 urges the Parks Department to reconstruct Father Fagan Park including replacement and restoration of memorial plaques and also repair of the sidewalk and provision for irrigation at Charlton Plaza; and

It is further resolved that CB2 requests Council Speaker Quinn to allocate funding for this work.

Vote: Unanimous, with 40 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/gh

- c:
- Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
 - Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
 - Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
 - Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
 - Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
 - Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
 - Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
 - Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
 - Sandy Myers, CB2 liaison, Man. Borough President's office
 - Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU

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April 1, 2011

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

Bradley Romaker
Director of Capital Budget
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st Street
New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro and Mr. Romaker:

At its Full Board meeting on March 24, 2011, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolution:

A resolution requesting that the Parks Department implement a mass planting of trees in portions of the Hudson Square neighborhood.

Whereas there are very few street trees planted on the blocks west of Hudson Street, east of Washington Street, North of Canal Street, and South of West Houston Street; and

Whereas some of these blocks were previously zoned and used for manufacturing but residential use development is now allowed and several new residential buildings have been completed and others are under construction or planned; and

Whereas the rest of these blocks are currently zoned for manufacturing use but the zoning is now antiquated and rezoning is anticipated soon; and

Whereas the Hudson Square BID and Community Board 2 have expressed interested in zoning the entire M1-6 area in Hudson Square to encourage 24-hour use including some residential use; and

Whereas additional street trees will enhance these areas for the predominant current uses and for anticipated and desired future uses; and

Whereas the entire area is negatively impacted by heavy truck, car, and bus traffic patterns related to the Route 9A, Holland Tunnel access, commuter bus routes, and nearby FEDEX and UPS garages; and

Whereas additional trucks will be entering the area related to construction and future use of a new Department of Sanitation garage serving three community districts; and

Whereas street trees help reduce the negative impacts of air pollution related to traffic and also create visual and sound buffers for residents and pedestrians; and

Whereas the Hudson Square BID anticipates a streetscape improvement project that will include trees and other plantings, but this project will focus on Hudson Street and Varick Street and the blocks between them; and

Whereas community members have requested a mass planting of trees on these blocks and submitted to CB2 a map of 57 possible locations; and

Whereas the community was appropriately informed of a public hearing held on March 2, 2011, at which this proposal was submitted and discussed; and

Whereas there were no objections expressed to this proposal; and

Whereas the Hudson Square BID has reviewed the map and has no objections to planting trees in these locations; and

Whereas it is anticipated that some of these locations may be unsuitable because of underground utilities or hollow sidewalks;

Whereas the City of New York recognizes the importance of trees to urban life quality and is committed to an effort to plant one million new trees;

Whereas a planting of multiple trees simultaneously will enable a consistency of sizes and types of trees in groups and will create a positive impact on the neighborhood not achievable by planting a fewer trees each year;

Therefore it is resolved that CB2 requests the Parks Department evaluate the proposed locations for possible street tree plantings, conduct a survey the area based on the attached map to identify viable tree locations, and initiate concurrent plantings of the greatest possible number of trees.

Vote: Unanimous, with 40 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/gh

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
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Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speak
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