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Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Amanda Kahn Fried, *Treasurer*  
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## COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

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

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

November 2, 2009

William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks  
Arsenal West, 24 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, New York 10023

Robert Redmond,  
Director of Capital Budget  
NYC Department of Parks  
Arsenal West, 24 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro, Mr. Redmond:

At its Full Board meeting on October 22, 2009, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolution:

**A resolution supporting supporting preliminary plans for renovations of the sitting area at Bleeker Park and requesting continued participation of the committee as the project advances.**

**Whereas** a combination of public and private funding is available for renovation of the Bleeker Park seating areas; and

**Whereas** this part of Bleeker Park has not been renovated since its initial construction was completed in 1965; and

**Whereas** the pavement is degraded and sunken in many area; and

**Whereas** the health of the American linden trees that provide shade and beauty is jeopardized by the constraint of their root systems; and

**Whereas** this area continues to be a very popular sitting area for residents and visitors alike; and

**Whereas** CB-2 has previously passed resolutions requesting renovation of this area and included allocation of funding as a capital budget priority; and

**Whereas** the Parks Department presented a preliminary design to the Parks Committee; and

**Whereas** the Parks Committee anticipates continued involvement in the design process as it moves toward a final proposal; and

**Whereas** the design provides a combination of planting beds and permeable pavements to improve conditions for the long term health of the trees; and

**Whereas** the design provides a planting area to serve as a buffer between the park and the adjacent property; and

**Whereas** the number of park benches will stay the same or increase; and

**Whereas** lighting will be improved; and

**Whereas** the park will remain open with no fences and gates; and

**Whereas** the Parks Department is hopeful that after renovation private funding will be available to supplement public funds available for maintenance; and

**Whereas** the designer expressed assurances that the design incorporates full wheelchair accessibility, including paved and unpaved surfaces that do not impede wheelchair access to any pedestrian accessible areas; and

**Whereas** the proposed movable furniture and some other features depend on a high level of maintenance funding that is not yet assured; and

**Whereas** neighbors expressed concern about use of the park for sleeping and a long standing problem with rodent infestations;

**Therefore it is resolved** that CB-2 supports this project and the general direction of the preliminary design work; and

**It is further resolved that CB-2** requests inclusion of permanent tables and also benches that face each other to provide a variety of seating options including areas that are more intimate and social, rather than dependence on movable furniture; and

**It is further resolved** that CB-2 reiterates its desire that the sitting area and/or the east/west connection between Bleecker and Hudson Streets be named for Jane Jacobs.

Vote: Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor

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

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

JH/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member  
Hon. Scott Stringer, Man. Borough President  
Hon. Christine Quinn, Council Speaker  
Hon. Alan Jay Gerson, Council Member  
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member  
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU  
Sandy Myers, Community Board Liaison, MBPO

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Director of Capital Budget  
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New York, New York 10023

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro, Mr. Redmond:

At its Full Board meeting on October 22, 2009, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolution:

**A resolution withholding objection to an application to remove two street trees at 350 Hudson Street.**

**Whereas** the management of 350 Hudson Street appeared before the committee to request support for the removal of two trees to facilitate the construction of a vault for an electrical transformer required to meet the growth in demand at the building; and

**Whereas** there are six trees along Hudson Street between King Street and Charlton Street in front of the building, of which one of the two that would be removed is the healthiest and most mature; and

**Whereas** maintaining and increasing the number and quality of street trees is an important priority for CB-2; and

**Whereas** the building management has apparently made a credible effort to identify alternatives, but to no avail; and

**Whereas** the Parks Department requires compensation, either in cash or in commitment to plant new trees, whenever trees are removed, according to a formula based on the size of the trees; and

**Whereas** the building management presented a plan to plant 14 new trees in the immediate area, mostly along the sidewalks adjacent to 345 Hudson Street, also owned and operated by Trinity Real Estate; and

**Whereas** the building management also committed to future tree plantings at other Trinity buildings in the Hudson Square neighborhood;

**Therefore it is resolved** that CB-2 regrets the loss of these trees and would prefer that an alternative be found; and

**It is further resolved** that CB-2 applauds the responsible approach of the building management and its demonstration of concern for the streetscape and the importance of street trees for the neighborhood; and

**It is further resolved** that based on the lack of an alternative and the commitment to planting and maintaining new trees, CB-2 does not object to these removals but requests a detailed proposal be submitted to the Parks Department and CB-2 prior to the removal of the two trees and that this proposal include the size and kind of the new trees, and a planting schedule.

Vote: Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

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