

March 8, 2004

Connie Fishman, President  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Pier 40 at West Houston St  
New York, NY 10014

**Re: Design of Segment 5 of Hudson River Park**

Dear Ms. Fishman,

Thank you for the presentation of the Segment 5 plans from your design team to the Waterfront and Parks Committee in January. You know from your attendance there that the overall response to the segment design is very positive and everyone is looking forward to seeing progress here in Chelsea.

However, our biggest concern is the halving of Pier 62. Don't do it. We understand your budget issues, and given the choices you considered, agree you chose the lesser of the evils. We argue, however, that no evil should be chosen at this point in time, especially since the funds for construction of this segment are still not secured. We think losing this much parkland is a grave mistake, and one that cannot be recovered or rebuilt in the future. We know there is not much else to sacrifice in this segment (we do not insist on retaining the skate park) but we beg you to keep the pier whole as long as possible in this planning process. We hold out hope that some budget adjustment can be made to save the pier.

To follow are our comments, from north to south, on the individual features of the park.

**PIER 64**

The plans for both the grove of trees and Meg Webster's boulder garden at the base of the pier were very well received and appreciated by the committee.

But there is some concern for the ramping up of the pier itself for two reasons: Will it block views to the north from Pier 62, since it will be six feet higher at the end? The model implied this, judging by the little people glued near the carousel. Also, is there a substantial budget impact to this feature? If so, we would gladly sacrifice it in exchange for a larger Pier 62.

Also, there are no planned shade structures for the pier at all. Some consideration must be given for these, or the pier will be nearly unusable in the summer.

**PIER 63**

The design of the bowl is inspired, especially the stone blocks serving as benches near the water. However, there are a few things missing here: nearly everyone agreed at our committee meeting that there needs to be a visual opening down the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street corridor, and that the paths starting from there must draw pedestrians to the water as well as to the south. This was very much part of the original concept of Chelsea Waterside Park as a whole, and fits the broad walkway in the eastern part of the park and its continuation of the major crosstown street and view corridor that 23<sup>rd</sup> Street represents.

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We have heard that the floating platform was removed from the plan because of a possibility that it would be seen above the bulkhead at high tide. We are not entirely sure this is possible, but even if it is, we don't think it is particularly important. Seeing part of another railing through the railing is not horrible. We would like the floating platform restored unless there is a more compelling reason to lose it.

#### PIER 62

Again, we ask that you find a way to restore the size of the pier. We approve of the driving of new pilings that will last 50 years. If it is possible, we would like those pilings that are not part of the new design to remain, on the off chance that funds may become available at a later date, so that the pier could go back to its original size.

#### LYNDEN'S GARDEN

Lynden's garden looks like a spectacular space, despite its proximity to Route 9A and the Chelsea Piers. We hope you will take advantage of Lynden's charm and send her to work with Chelsea Piers to improve the corner of their facility there, both in terms of looks and flow.

#### SKATE PARK

You've heard from us before about the skate park, but if it's here to stay, we are now most concerned about the fencing around the perimeter. This fence will be a dominant aesthetic element in the park, and must be treated as such, not as an afterthought.

#### CAROUSEL

We request that you look at ways to contain sound from the carousel, as well as the skate park.

We hope there will be consideration of a solar roof on the carousel building, as much as a demonstration project as anything. And we ask that you consider some sort of windbreak at the end of the pier, for greater enjoyment in the winter.

#### PIER 54

To reiterate past comments, please move the railing to accommodate ships, since this is to be a historic ship pier, and please provide bollards and cleats around the edges.

Thank you as always for your attention to our concerns. The design process of Segment 5 has been a satisfying one, and we thank you for making it so inclusive.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg  
Hon. C. Virginia Fields  
Local Elected Officials