

April 8, 2004

Connie Fishman
President, Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40
Houston and West Streets
New York, NY

Re: Segment 5 Construction Priorities

Dear Ms. Fishman,

Thank you for coming to our meeting last month to hear our discussion of both Pier 57 and Hudson River Park construction in Chelsea. As you learned from our meeting, we feel we are at a critical point in the park's development, especially in Chelsea. It has been a long time since the residents of Chelsea have seen progress on the park and will be many years before Segment 5 in its entirety will be ready, and we think this is a ripe time to regenerate enthusiasm and support for funding for the park.

We understand that what funding remains after the Segment 6 elements of the park are constructed is uncertain, and we do not in any way want to jeopardize the completion of those parts of the park. Instead, we would like you to consider the possibility of spending some funds immediately on elements in Chelsea that can be done now, with the idea that the currently uncommitted funding for Segment 6 could be replaced in time for construction, still two years away.

All of the projects we suggest here can be completed in advance of the rest of Segment 5, since they are not connected to the other elements in the segment. We will do our part to encourage our local legislators to find funding for these elements as well, if we could have your commitment to give consideration to juggling funds to make these happen:

- We have been waiting too long, it is agreed, for the completion of the east side of Chelsea Waterside Park. It's been four years now since the park was opened and the play equipment is not in place. Instead that area has deteriorated. We understand that bids for the equipment were far above your estimate, and that delayed the project. However, now that a solution has been found, we ask that you do all you can to have this element completed before the end of this year.

- We also ask that the comfort station/food kiosk be completed as well in the near future. Again, four years have passed and the program intentions of the park are still unfulfilled. An effort must be made to work with State DOT or the elected officials to complete this element immediately.
- We request that you make plans now for the removal of the shed on Pier 64. At the very least, we ask that you proceed on the permitting process to remove the shed, since that, at your estimation, could take many months. Once the permits to remove the shed are in place, we think arrangements could be made to find the \$2.2 million. That figure, as you well pointed out, will only enlarge as time goes on.

Progress on these three elements would make a huge difference to the residents of Chelsea, many of whom have been working on this park since the idea was conceived. We will be waiting a long time for the rest of the segment to be ready, and sadly, funds for that are still uncertain. Seeing progress here could also serve as a lightning rod of support for funding for the segment – and galvanize residents to organize again for this last push.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Region 11, State DOT
Friends of Hudson River Park