



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

May 5, 2005

Joshua David
Robert Hammond
Friends of the High Line
430 West 14th Street, Suite 304
New York, NY 10014

Re: Review of plan for High Line Segment 1

Dear Mr. David and Mr. Hammond,

Thank you for coming to the board's Waterfront & Parks Committee to present the plans for the High Line, and for bringing Lisa Switkin of Field Operations.

We were very excited to see the High Line taking shape as a park, and many of the design elements you have arrived at to date were met with enthusiasm and approval from the committee. In this letter, we have listed some reactions to the plan with the hopes that these comments can be absorbed by your designers as well.

ACCESS POINTS / DESTINATIONS

The concept of the slow stair was met with approval as well. However, the grand approach to 14th Street with its water feature left some questioning the feasibility of maintaining such a structure. It also struck some as "theme-park-y."

Ms. Switkin addressed the issue of marking entrances properly and well from the street level. We encourage the design team to focus on this issue, both as a practical matter ("How do I get up there?") and an aesthetic one ("This looks inviting!").

Many agreed that finding particular destination spots along the High Line will make it a more interesting place to visit. For that reason, we liked the sundeck at 14th Street, and clusters of seating to create gathering places, and we encourage the design team to find and create other spots like this ("Hey, let's walk up to the - *insert destination here* - on the High Line.")

LIGHTING

The idea of lighting the High Line at night from below, instead of above from lampposts, was met with great enthusiasm. We also ask that the design team look at how the High Line will be lit from the street level at the cross streets, in order to make the underside a more pleasant place to be.

J. David & R. Hammond

May 12, 2005

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PLANKING / PATHS

We greatly appreciate the concept of the concrete planks, branching off and meandering across the High Line's width. We would like to see more interaction of the existing rails in the planking.

HISTORIC FEATURES

Many agreed that we would like to see the history of the High Line preserved in and by the design. The rail lines are an obvious choice for preservation. We also hope that in the development of the High Line as park, you will give special attention to the enhancement and restoration of other historic features, such as the railings and the parapets. Also, there was discussion of the potential for actually stationing a train car on the rail line, as a prime exhibit of its original and intended (and in some ways, future, if we are to take railbanking seriously) use.

We would also like to see the spurs reused and preserved in the plan as you move northward.

RETAIL USES

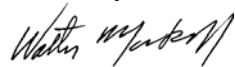
There was some concern that the High Line would creep towards a mall experience, if many of the private spaces that abut the rail line are allowed to develop without control. While we think a few such uses would enhance the experience of the High Line, we hope you can find mechanisms to control access to the High Line from private spaces on that level.

FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- We did not see the placement of any rest rooms in the current segment, and we therefore hope future presentations will include the locations and design of these facilities.
- We hope Friends of the High Line will never lose sight of the northern end of the High Line, which curves around rail yards. We certainly understand the position at this point, but hope the High Line as a park can eventually include this last (and best) segment.
- We ask that the designers continue to consider the idea of the planking peeling up to create seating and tables.

Again, thank you for the presentation. We hope to see you again further along in the process, and certainly as design plans begin for the segments north of 15th Street.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick

Co-Chair

Waterfront & Parks Committee

Cc: Mayor Bloomberg, Manhattan Borough President Fields, Local Elected Officials