



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

June 8, 2005

Col. Tom Tyrell
Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
Pier 86
46th Street & 12th Avenue
New York, NY 10036

Re: Plans for Pier 86

Dear Col. Tyrell,

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 and its Waterfront and Parks Committee thank you, your staff and your architects for coming to the board office to present plans for Pier 86. We are very excited to see the museum making the investment in the pier, both for the public space it will create, and for its enhancement of the museum as well.

Your efforts to make the pier more open and welcoming to the public were met with great enthusiasm. As Ms. Nielsen described, clearing the inland, or easternmost, end of the pier to create sight lines down to the water and over the public part of the pier will go a long way in bringing passersby and park users out on the pier and into the museum. We encourage you, along with the Hudson River Park Trust, to clearly mark the pier as accessible to the public with signage, especially since visitors are required to pass through security, rather than stroll right down as on other public piers.

The shaded grove at the entrance will also make the approach to the museum more welcoming, seeming more like a entrance to a cultural organization and less like the side of a highway. On that note, we welcome as many plantings of trees and otherwise that the plan can accept. As you know, an open flat pier is not at all hospitable in the warm months without some shade and green. (The light-colored concrete should also help this issue.)

We understand the need for the fence along the Intrepid to screen the “back of house” and the chiller plant at the end of the pier. We welcome Ms. Nielsen’s proposal that the fence not be merely chain link, but something more attractive, reflecting good design. We also encourage the museum and its designers to find ways to make the fence an integrated part of the pier, either through plantings (even vines) or attractive signage along the fence’s face.

Finally, we request that the museum and the Trust find a way to make the pier accessible to the public beyond museum hours, especially in the evenings in the summer months. For one, it will allow for greater appreciation of some of the design elements that will come alive in the darker

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hours, such as the blue LED lights along the pier. But many park users enjoy these hours after the work day, and with such an investment in the pier, it should get its maximum use.

Thank you for your efforts. We look forward to seeing the pier develop.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Hudson River Park Trust