



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

August 7, 2013

Shanti Nagel
Director of Community Cultivation
Clinton Housing Development Company
403 West 40th Street
New York, NY 10018

Re: West 39th Street Park (former "Bird Park")

Dear Ms. Nagel:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its July 31st, 2013 Full Board meeting voted to support the efforts of Clinton Housing Development Company (CHDC) and Cultivate HKNY to design a community green space at West 39th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. As of the time of this letter, Cultivate HKNY partnering with community members and organizations has already begun work to revitalize this small lot.

On June 6, 2013 the Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (WATER) of MCB4 was presented with the park design by CHDC as part of the work done by Cultivate HKNY. The triangular space is owned by the Port Authority of NY/NJ and is leased by Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association. HKNA leases several lots throughout our District from the Port Authority making these spaces available to our community. Formally known as Bird Park, as it was once coined an urban bird sanctuary by the Audubon Society, this space was actively used by local residents until construction around the area forced the closure of the park. The park design presented by Cultivate HKNY is both practical and thoughtful. MCB4 is pleased with the proposed design and welcomes the promise of a much needed green space in this area.

This West 39th Street lot is newly named Theresa Park, honoring a long time resident gardener. The park will have a tree and shrub lined parameter along a fence providing beauty, shade and privacy. The space will include wooden benches, bistro tables and a picnic table. The design also calls for the placement of an original Vera Lightstone piece. Ms. Lightstone was a long time resident of West 39th Street. The rear wall of the Park provides perfect placement for the remnant signage of the Old Slaughterhouse formally 493 Eleventh Avenue. MCB4 envisions that this little park would cater to residents and visitors of all ages. This green space will be an oasis in this park-starved part of the district.

MCB4 is grateful to CHDC and Cultivate HKNY for taking an active role in greening Hell's Kitchen. They have been transforming ordinary tree pits into sidewalk gardens along many blocks in the District. Cultivate HKNY partnering with HKNA is continuing to bring together residents and

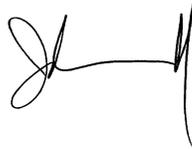
businesses in the neighborhood to promote this much appreciated beautification effort. Albeit a small part of Hell's Kitchen, this project reflects the power of community involvement. The concept and ideas around the design for this green space come from community input gathered by Cultivate HKNY and the funding for this park comes directly from the community as well. The eventual park construction will truly be a communal effort spearheaded by Cultivate HKNY as residents are encouraged to "get dirty" and build this park. Theresa Park will showcase the positive outcome of community based organizations, old and new, improving the quality of life of our neighborhoods.

MCB4 looks forward to the revival of this space on West 39th Street.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks and Environment

[signed 8/07/2013]

Marten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks and Environment

cc: Steve Napolitano, New York & New Jersey Port Authority
US Congressman Jerry Nadler
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Assembly Member Richard Gottfried
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer