



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, New York 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

July 31, 2012

Signe Nielsen, President
Design Commission
253 Broadway, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: High Line, Section 3

Dear Ms. Nielsen:

Manhattan Community Board No 4 (MCB4) has reviewed and given a strong positive endorsement, with no conditions or negative comments, of the proposed design for the third segment of the High Line, from its current northernmost terminus at 30th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues, extending west to 12th Avenue & north nearly to 34th Street and east to its northern terminus between 12th and 11th Avenues.

The design was presented by the Friends of The High Line at a meeting of MCB4's Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee (WPE) on 12 July, and subsequently presented to the Executive Committee on 16 July.

MCB4 has been closely involved with the development of the High Line since its inception and has followed the design process closely. The first two sections have proven to be enormously popular and well received, and it appears that section 3 will maintain the same high quality of design that has become a hallmark of the High Line project.

The design shows Phase I of section 3, which is the Permanent Eastern Rail Yards and the Interim Western Rail Yards Walkway, and the Tower C Passage of Phase II. The 10th Avenue Spur of Phase II was not a part of the design presentation.

Permanent Eastern Rail Yards

This segment consists of the Crossroads (and the crossroads seating bridge), Grasslands segment, 11th Avenue Bridge, 11th Avenue Stairs, and the Beam Exploration area. The design principles for this portion are increased planting, clearer circulation, reduced flock density, and an increase in the variety of experiences as you walk along the High Line.

We found this part of the design most welcome, well thought out, and look forward to its final completion in the near future. We, however, do point out the need for restrooms or well maintained port-o-potties.

Western Rail Yards Interim Walkway

This part of Phase 1 includes the entry, 12th Avenue Overlook, River Overlook, 33rd Street Bridge, 34th Street ramp, 34th Street Entry Plaza, and a box car.

Since this is an interim design and use we approve of the design and the placement of the box car as an interesting motif. Again, we do point out the need for restrooms or well maintained port-o-potties.

Tower C Passage

This is a part of Phase II and was reviewed by MCB4 when we recently approved the High Line and Eastern Rail Yards Text Amendments. This segment consists of moveable sitting, 10th Avenue Stair, Concession Area, Planter, Public Access Route, and Balconies.

We continue to approve of this design and are pleased to see a reworking of the columns from Tower C.

10th Avenue Spur

This was not a part of the design presented. Thus, we withhold any comments except to restate that any designs for the spur be done in cooperation with MCB4 and the neighboring community.

In summary, the proposed design carries out the palette of design features introduced in prior sections, but with some innovative new twists such as a rise as the path as it moves towards the Hudson River, creating a reveal of sorts, and a clever play feature that incorporates the High Lines structural members into an in-and-out, over-and-under maze. The westernmost portion of the design is an interim concept that places a path through the natural landscape of the unfinished high line, pending future development of the Rail Yards project. We heartily recommend that it be approved.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair

cc: Friends of the High Line
Speaker Christine Quinn
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer
NYS Senator Thomas Duane
NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
Congressman Jerrold Nadler