

**ESCR CAG Meeting -- February 23, 2023**  
(via Zoom)

**CAG members present**

Martin Barrett Wendy Brawer Dina Elkan Dov Goldman Frank Avila Goldman Charles Krezell	Dianne Lake Michael Marino Sandra McKee Damaris Reyes Christine Datz Romero Susan Steinberg
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**DDC Presentation of Updates**

*Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo*

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Hiring Compliance (***presented by Stephen Anderson***)
  - A. Hires (for both Project Area 1 and 2) by residency location are shown here as an addendum to last month's data as of December 2022
- II. Q&A
  - A. Wendy: Is the total staff (existing + new hires) who live in Manhattan about 5%?
    1. Stephen: Correct.
    2. Wendy: How many people comprise the total?
    3. Stephen: We have reviewed a total of 1,300 records, so the total number of workers (existing and new hires) from Manhattan is around 40 people.
    4. Wendy: It's interesting to see that because such an emphasis was placed on local hires. I know you host the information sessions and the Work with Us events, but are there actual training programs that you put on to help local folks get these jobs?
    5. Stephen: We don't host trainings ourselves, but we work with Small Business Services of NYC and refer who we interact with (if they do need training for construction) for them to visit Workforce One centers.
  - B. Susan: I was curious in terms of the high numbers in New Jersey, Long Island—is this because of a lack of candidates locally or lack of *qualified* candidates locally?
    1. Stephen: It is a mix of both. Again, the bulk of staff are existing. Also, a majority of the jobs are unionized, so a majority of the hires come through the unions.

### III. Hiring Compliance (*presented by Desiree*)

- A. There is a virtual Work with Us quarterly session happening next week on Tuesday, February 28th from 5pm–6pm. We've been sharing this information, but please feel free to reach out to your networks of people to spread the word!
  - 1. Wendy: You've been doing this work with us events for a while now, but I'm wondering if maybe this isn't working. Are you planning to revisit this?
  - 2. Desiree: These sessions aren't just aimed at connecting folks to jobs with the ESCR project, but also to other jobs, projects and resources more broadly.
  - 3. Stephen: We are taking a different approach to these events, which is why in this upcoming event Workforce One is the main feature.
  - 4. Desiree: We are looking to have more in-person events as well, including one in the spring and one in fall, with a virtual workshop over the summer. We are trying to get more union participation in some of these events as well. If anyone has any other suggestions, you can certainly pass them along.
  - 5. Wendy: I suggest putting more visual emphasis on the Workforce One feature and training opportunities on the flyer.
  - 6. Desiree: Sure, we can do that.

### IV. Construction Progress/Approach:

- A. PA2 | Construction Progress
- B. The northern portion of Stuyvesant Cove Park (area 1) has now been pushed back to Spring 2023 as we're waiting for portions of the guard rail (between the landscaped area and the path) to be delivered and installed. We are still on track for the southern part of the park to open in the beginning of January 2024.
- C. We're ramping up the installation of the floodwall gates; *see slide 9 in the presentation for a map indicating which gates have been installed and which will be installed in the coming year.*
- D. PA2 | Current Greenway Access
  - 1. Greenway from E. 20th St. south to E. 12th St. is closed; no access currently to East River Park from Stuyvesant Cove Park
    - a) Anticipated reopening is in early summer of 2023
- E. PA2 | Construction Photos - *slide 12.*

### V. Q&A

- A. Martin: Last year you indicated that the park could be opened in October or November, and Solar One indicated they preferred it would stay closed during the fall plantings. Are you indicating more gates will be installed? How can that construction go on when the park is open?
  - 1. Desiree: The gates are fabricated outside of the park, and the installation happens quickly. The main work for the gates that takes a lot of time is the foundations, which they're working on now. Regarding the opening, there were lots of conversations with DDC, EDC, and Solar One; they ultimately decided to wait until the park is fully completed before turning it over to EDC and Solar One.

2. Martin: You're talking about the south side as well, so the park won't be used until the spring of 2024?
  3. Desiree: No, north of E. 20th St. One of the issues from the fall is that there would only be one means of egress and access. Once the rails are finished and the work is done at 20th St, there will be two points of egress and access.
  4. Martin: Are the railings on hand, or do they still need to be supplied?
  5. Desiree: It's my understanding that they are still waiting on new railing.
  6. Martin: So, is it plausible that it might not be available until the summer or fall?
  7. Desiree: I have been told that it will reopen in the spring.
  8. Dina: I've heard that it may not reopen in the spring. First, the railings that Desiree is referring to do not include gates, so it's very difficult to get access to the planter beds, which is a problem for volunteer groups, students, and staff who have to water the beds but can't climb over the railings. EDC is going to ask DDC for a change order to get gates installed and to get a gate installed at the beach so that there is water access at the cove. Second, the Solar Two building is now in construction document phase, and we're hoping that construction starts in August; it's critical that construction happen on time because the landscaping needs to be finished by the ESCR before they leave the area and finish the PA2 work (which is supposed to be done by 2024). It's possible the north egress to 23rd St. will have to be closed again during construction on the blacktop. EDC and the construction manager on the building construction are currently discussing this. The main issue for Solar One has always been only having one point of egress because this creates a really unsafe condition for people in the park. We want to prevent there from being public access as long as there is only one point of access/egress. So with all of that in mind, I just wanted to let everyone know not to get their hopes up about it being open for the spring/summer.
  9. Desiree: To speak to that, there are lots of conversations that are happening around this, and thank you, Dina, for providing that update.
- B. Dianne: How long do you expect the pinch point to be closed?
1. Desiree: Early summer 2023.
  2. Dianne: Thank you. Follow up question: people have reached out to us about where bikes are able to travel safely on this map (*the greenway access map on slide 11*). Is the City recommending cyclists use 10th St. to get in and out of the park, and if so, are they aware we have construction blockages on 10th between B and C, and D and the river?
  3. Desiree: I believe that 10<sup>th</sup> Street is the closest access point for the park. We will take a look at that and can bring that up to DDC and DOT to see if we need to revise this.
  4. Dianne: We also got a question about why Avenue C isn't marked as a cyclist path, so you might want to ask about that as well.

5. Desiree: Right now, there is not a safe access point from the greenway to Avenue C because of construction. Once the lower part of the greenway (south of 20<sup>th</sup> St.) opens, yes, Avenue C can open as an alternate detour.

VI. Construction Progress / Approach

A. PA1 | Construction Progress:

1. We plan on presenting the updated construction timeline in March; for now, we have this visual (*on slide 13*). Note, per a request, we have indicated the percentage of available open space currently, which is 52%.
2. PA1 | Early 2023 Construction Activities
  - a) Many of these activities are ongoing.
  - b) Ball field #3: construction activities are completed and restoration is in progress.
  - c) The Parks O&M building retaining wall is moving forward; I'll share a rendering at the next meeting.
3. PA1 | Delancey Street Pedestrian Bridge
  - a) There was a question about this last meeting, so I included a slide here (*slide 15*). The question was about where the piers were going to drop on the sidewalk; the bridge piers are indicated by the red circles in the plan displayed on this slide.
4. PA1 | Construction Photos show the sewer chamber and combi-wall, which are both moving forward.

VII. Project Information Delivery

A. PA1 | Archaeology Signage

1. This is the sign we have out there on the archaeology site in Corlears Hook (*slide 17*). We hope this is helpful for people information for folks.
2. The status is still the same from last month. I don't have an update on the anticipated duration of this work; I will let you all know ASAP.

VIII. Construction Progress/Approach

A. PC | Project Status

1. To recap, the current activities are internal submittal review; site survey, test pits, and mobilization; and staging & equipment areas

B. PC | Project Overview

1. The lower/southern portion of PC is where the construction activities will begin.

C. PC | Construction Progress

1. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Water St.
  - a) Mobilization and storage of equipment; test pit operations and installation of tree guards completed
2. Locations 2, 3, and 4
  - a) Project area survey; installation of tree guards; and test pit operations
3. Location 5 – Avenue C, E.20th to E. 23rd
  - a) Project Area Survey and preconstruction building inspections

D. PC | Typical Construction Sequencing (*slide 22*)

1. Shows sequencing for the two types of locations: locations with and without tide gate chamber buildings

E. PC | Resources:

1. Reminders that Tannia is the Community Construction Liaison for PC, and PC has the same inquiry tool as PA1 and PA2

IX. Environment

A. PA1 | AQM | January 2023 Update

1. The PM daily value (24-hour TWA) did not surpass the PEL for January.
  - a) Just a few of exceedances around Montgomery St. to Jackson St. location; 1 Jackson St. to Williamsburg Bridge; and from Williamsburg Bridge to Northern Project Limit, there were several occasions (most around 15 minutes) where there were exceedances due to construction activities and idling trucks; dust suppression techniques were applied.
  - b) Our team is working with the contractor to work to minimize this.
  - c) The northern part is where the exceedances occurred.

B. PA2 AQM | December 2022 & January 2023 Update

1. The PM daily value (24-hour TWA) did not surpass the PEL for December, and there were no net exceedances for this month.
  - a) December: there were a few exceedances: toward the end of December and the beginning of January, there were multiple PM2.5 exceedances at one monitor; the contractor did investigate these. They occurred both during and outside construction hours. there wasn't any visible dust, but they enacted dust control measures, and new filters were added. There were no net exceedances; it was only at one monitor. The subcontractors determined these were likely due to non-construction activities, like extreme cold weather and condensation within the monitors.

X. Q&A:

- A. Tony: Do you know why the Corlears ball field has been shut down? We received a notice from Parks Department that due to emergency repairs, the facility will not be available as of March through the year. That caught us by surprise. My second question is: can you provide insight into the timeline for when the rest of PA1 ball fields will become available?

1. Desiree: I have not been made aware of the notice from the Parks Department; I will look into that for you. Secondly, about the timeline for the PA1 parks, ball field 4 restoration is happening now and is set to open for the spring ballfield season; I think ballfield 2 and 3 are set to open later this year; it says the end of the summer. I'll bring the question back though.
2. Tony: It still seems like there is a long way to go—not months but well over a year. If there is any kind of report on how you get to an opening by the end of summer, that would be helpful.

3. Desiree: I think Dianne also asked for an update on the open space so that will be a part of our March presentation.
- B. Michael: We didn't know anything either about the Corlears ball field. Thank you for the archaeology sign, although I haven't seen it yet. When did that get put up?
1. Desiree: I believe it was the end of last week, but I'll confirm with our staff.
  2. Michael: Around the archaeological dig, I'm still getting a lot of comments from the public that they're hearing from other sources that Indian artifacts are being found, but that they don't know if those artifacts are native to the land or not or if they were dumped there much earlier. Is there anything you can share about that?
  3. Desiree: We have been told that anything that has been found is being tested and under review, which is why there is a temporary sign; once findings are determined, a public announcement will be made.
- C. Frank: Was it your folks who wrapped around 3 of our trees on Water Street near Jackson? Asking because there is so much construction in this area and I wasn't sure who made this happen.
1. Desiree: I would imagine yes, since we had tree guards being installed there, and parallel conveyance work is happening on both Jackson and Water. I can double check.
- D. Dianne: I'm curious about the Con Ed work happening in PA1; I also thought there was talk about doing Con Ed work on the closed section of the greenway between Houston and 10th. Are there updates on those?
1. Desiree: I know the CAG sent over some questions related to the Con Ed work, so we are working on that. In a nutshell, Con Ed work for this project will be an ongoing thing because there are so many utilities involved. Nearly every operation involves Con Ed. The Houston St. retaining wall is on the schedule to start in 2023, and that will involve more utilities. There is going to be consistent ConEd work throughout the project, and that was the answer I got when I asked that question.
  2. Dianne: That makes sense. If you could just ask about the very northern area as well, which is still closed; if they could pass along an update about that, that'd be great.
  3. Desiree: We will send a reminder about that question to Parks.
- E. Tony: Ball field #7 or 8 is missing a bench for the players in the dugouts to sit; is there a way to make a request to have that bench put in?
1. Desiree: Typically, anything that comes through the CAG either Tara and Paula send or we send to Parks, so we will make sure that that request gets to them. We'll also ask if there is another way they like to route things. I know you can also put in a 311 request because that goes directly to their maintenance crews because that's how there requests are logged, so you could do that as well to be thorough.
- F. Desiree: We are working on the other questions and will pass along responses to you, and we will be at the March CB3 meeting as well.

## CAG-Only Portion

- I. Paula: The floor is open for anyone to comment.
- II. Michael: The only thing I can think of about why Parks would be closing the Corlears ball field is because of dogs using the ball field. I will let you all know what I hear.
- III. Dianne: Even looking at the ball fields, it seems clear that it won't be finished.
- IV. Tony: I'd be shocked if it is completed before spring of next year. I'm glad we're all pushing for the same result.
- V. Wendy: I'm wondering if there's any update on the study around FDR?
  - A. Paula: I haven't heard anything, but I think I did let you know that Parks and/or DOT are going to come present on the study to you.
  - B. Wendy: I also want to mention that the last two months did not have reports about ESCR on CB3; those meetings are a better time for the public to ask questions about the project, since they can't during these meetings.
    1. Tara: That's something you should bring up with CB3.
    2. Michael: the way CB3 operates is that the chair of the committee approves the agenda. When I was on the board, we wanted them to come every month regardless, but you should pass this along to the chair of CB3.
    3. Dianne: Wendy, I was told last month that it wasn't on the agenda because the City didn't have an update.
- VI. Tara: if you have any questions during the month, please send them along; we will pass along answers to the questions we asked as we receive them.

Meeting adjourned a little under an hour early.