

ESCR CAG-only Meeting Summary
via Zoom
March 4, 2021

Participants: Ayo, Camille, Charles, Chris, Christine, Damaris, Dianne, Doug, Ditashiah, Frank, Jeff, Martin, Michael, Jasmine, Richard, Sam, Susan, Trevor, Tony

- **Environmental (air, soil, noise) monitoring and reporting**
 - Tony, Frank, and Charles met with Paula; she is turning this conversation to a letter to send to DCP
 - Tony: Regarding the environmental aspects/impacts, we were lacking information. What was available by the City EIS was vehicles and traffic, but we are also concerned about dust and particulate matter in the air. What happens when dust bounces off the 8-foot floodwall and comes back to residents?
 - Frank: We want to get a complete picture of how the different aspects of DDC and the City are planning their oversight for emissions, etc., and we want to get that in writing. This community all too often gets the brunt of work and health consequences (e.g., asthma).
 - Charles: we felt that we should get the base data for what the air quality is now. We need reports quicker than quarterly.
 - Paula: CAG members, what is the best process to share this letter?
 - Ayo: We are still waiting for the finalized letter in regards to hiring.
 - How can we nuance this process to make approving letters more efficient and democratic?
 - Christine: every member of the CAG should have an opportunity to place comments.
 - Christine: Organization on the Lower East Side, Loisaída, has gathered money and resources to measure air quality for baseline establishment at the Fireboard House.
 - Tony: We should have air monitors all along the park on the resident side of FDR.
 - Damaris: How are we going to differentiate air quality and the issues with air that are coming up from the construction that is happening on NYCHA versus the construction that is happening on the ESCR. How do we ensure that the results that come back are not being conflated? NYCHA has construction all over its grounds, there is no air monitoring.
 - Tony: ^ This is a good point.
 - Damaris: If we can do the same baseline testing at Loisaída, at NYCHA, we can get baseline testing. We need to control air monitoring because the City is not going to be doing baseline testing.
 - Damaris, Christine: Let's have a conversation off-line about this baseline testing happening at the Fireboard House and how ESCR CAG can be involved in this activity.

- Dianne: Let's see what they get back to us about the budget, and then we will act accordingly.
- Damaris: Best to propose budget ahead of time, present what our priorities are.
- **Interim Flood Protection Measures**
 - Does the CAG want to request that the City make a presentation about their study?
 - Does the City have interim flood protection plans to prepare for a storm mid-construction?
 - Tara will share OEM presentation on interim flood protection for everyone's review (Paula did this on 3/16/21)
- **Construction timeline + phasing & closure plan**
 - From Dianne: "Will we have any insight into the contractor-dependent process of creating the phasing/closure plan and a voice/vote in any changes to the city's proposal that may be suggested?"
 - Desiree asked if this question was in reference to PA1
 - Dianne: Meant PA1 because PA2 phasing is mostly figured out already.
 - Tony: We need a construction timeline for PA1.
- **Compost Yard**
 - Huge issue around public control of park – community-based composting group are being evicted from a park they've contributed to for so long.
 - Gale Brewer: Has been all over the Parks Commissioner, setting up a temporary space but advocacy is needed to bring compost yard back to East River Park in the next administration.
 - Christine: we need to keep this issue on the front burner.
- **Park amenities**
 - Ballfields permitting/alternative space
 - Tony reports that as of June 1st, 2/3rd of ERP ballfields will not be available.
- **Greenway phasing/closure**
 - About 3 miles of car-free NYC Greenway will be subject to closure during ESCR. The City's agreement with CMs Chin, River, and Powers says DOT will study the feasibility of a new north-south protected bike lane as an alternative, but no accommodations or alternatives for pedestrians, runners.
 - DOT expected to present findings of its feasibility study for new bike lane to community by end of 2020, but that hasn't happened
 - Dianne: We've been asking the city for mitigations, but aside from phasing there's nothing. It's also been a question from CB 3, and the city has promised to bring DOT into the conversation, but it's never happened.
 - Pratt Center: DOT presented for an alternative along Avenue C, we will find that information to share with everyone