

ESCR CAG Meeting -- February 26, 2026
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Frank Avila-Goldman Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Richard Heitler Trever Holland Dianne Lake Michael Marino Robin Schatell
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[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

ESCR Presentation

Ethan Kraft, HNTB-LiRo

1. Employment Resources¹
 - a. ESCR Employment Resource Fair on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (Virtual)
 - i. 56 attendees (of 141 registrants)
 - ii. Presenters
 1. Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
 2. Laborers Union (Local 1010)
 3. Jobs Plus, Henry Street Settlement
 4. RETI Center
 5. Workforce1
 6. NYCHA REES
 - iii. Full presentation PDF and recording to be posted to ESCR [Work With Us](#) page
 - b. DDC Summer Internship Program
 - i. Geared towards students (sophomore through grad school) in architecture, engineering, design, construction management, safety, and project controls.
 - ii. 10-week program runs June 1 through August 7, 2026
 - iii. Application deadline is March 31, 2026
 - iv. For more information: <https://on.nyc.gov/3LHs1gM>
2. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 11*)
 - a. Floodwall and floodgate operations.
 - b. Construction of Parks maintenance & tennis buildings. Utility work.
 - c. Esplanade reconstruction, E. Houston Street retaining wall activities. Excavation and clean fill installation

¹ The project is fully staffed, but this is an effort to connect job seekers to local workforce training organizations.

- d. Deep sewer work, floodwall construction, and excavation. E. 10th Street bridge work (Park side).
 - e. Utility work. Preparation for E. 13th Street floodwall construction.
 - f. Phase 1 amenities OPEN. Punch list items (none are anticipated to impact park use or access).
 - g. Ongoing partial FDR lane closures continue at various locations for bridge work and utility installations. Median work from E. 10th Street to E. 14th Street.
- 3. PA1 - E. 10th Street - E. 14th Street areas
 - a. Upcoming operations adjacent to NYCHA Riis will be noisy and disruptive.
 - i. Daytime bridge pile installation anticipated to begin in April on E. 10th Street.
 - 1. Any sidewalk and parking impacts of work zone will be communicated in advance.
 - ii. Floodwall sheet installation near E. 13th Street to be scheduled.
 - 1. Operation must take place at night as required by DOT for FDR Drive lane closures.
 - iii. Timelines for both operations are dependent on Con Ed operations.
 - iv. Vibration monitors are in place inside NYCHA buildings, and settlement monitoring is ongoing.
 - v. We will provide as much advance notice as possible when dates are confirmed and continue using multiple means of communication.
- 4. PA1 Construction Photos (*see slides 13-16*)
 - a. Backfilling sewer trench near Track area
 - b. Excavation of E. Houston Street retaining wall footing
 - c. Tie-rod installation along waterfront
 - d. Sewer installation beneath existing utilities
 - e. Removal of existing timber piles
 - f. Installation of concrete curb for Fields 3 & 4 fence line
 - g. Masonry work at Tennis Building
 - h. Rebar for floodwall along FDR Drive adjacent to Pier 42
 - i. Snow on site north of Williamsburg Bridge
 - j. Snow removal along construction access road at Corlears Hook Bridge
- 5. Environmental and Air Quality Monitoring (AQM)
 - a. PA1 AQM Locations (*see map on page 18*)
 - b. January 2026 AQM Update
 - i. It was a good month – no alerts were longer than 15 minutes, and dust mitigation techniques were applied for the three that occurred.
- 6. PC Construction Activities
 - a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Corlears Hook Park (Water St. and South St. complete)
 - i. Sewer installation
 - ii. Light installation on Water St.
 - b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St. S
 - i. Sewer installation
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St. N
 - i. Secant pile installation
 - ii. Sewer installation

- d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Sewer installation
 - e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Water main
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Test jet grouting
7. PC Work in Vicinity of Williamsburg Bridge
- a. Activities related to deep sewer installation underway on Lewis St. & Delancey St. South.
 - i. Includes deep excavations for PC sewer
 - ii. Started September 2025, anticipated to continue until March 2026
 - iii. Vibration monitors in place
 - b. Sewer work on Baruch Dr. and Delancey St. North is underway and anticipated to continue for 5-7 months.
8. PC Construction Photos (*see slides 23-24*)
- a. Con Ed conduit installation in E. 20th Street
 - b. Secant pile installation for Deep Drop Manhole at Delancey Street N and Baruch Dr.
 - c. Formwork for Deep Drop Manhole installation at Delancey St. S and Baruch Dr.
 - d. Deep Drop Manhole base installation at Delancey St. S and Baruch Dr.
 - e. Deep Drop Manhole roof slab installation at Delancey St. S and Baruch Dr.

Q & A

Wendy: There have been complaints that the bathrooms (the porta potties) are being used as a residence. Is there a plan to address this situation? Also, has an access plan for emergency vehicles been worked out?

Ethan: The emergency agencies have access to our emergency access plan. Based on what we heard at CB 3, we'll resend it to them and discuss it at the CB 3 district cabinet meeting. For your awareness, emergency vehicles can access it at Montgomery Street and they can get across the Corlears Hook bridge. The Delancey Street bridge isn't rated for vehicles. For construction site purposes, there are more ramps off of the FDR that let them enter the site. For the bathroom question, I don't know if this is on Parks radar. I wasn't aware of this, so I'll take it back.

Wendy: In July there's a lot of excitement planned for the park. There will be flyovers and fireworks. Last year, the park was closed on the 4th of July. This year, I hope it's ready for all the people who are expected for the events that start a few days before the 4th. I don't know if it's on your radar.

Terese Flores (Parks): I can take that back and get an update of what's going on.

Michael: What is going on with Delancey bridge staircase, and why is it taking so long to open?

Ethan: Yes, we're aware that it's taking longer than it seems like it should. We're awaiting parts to finish the railing. Because the bridge opened when it did, the staircase was incomplete, and it wasn't at the top of the list of things that needed to be completed to open the park. We do anticipate it being open in the next month.

Dianne: Thanks for following up on the punch list. Roughly how many items are on it?

Ethan: I don't have a specific number, and some of the things on there are placed there as "to do" items that need to be done before the project is completed. Not sure I can get you a specific number; I just know it's a variety of small things such as graffiti removal on the Delancey Street bridge, paint touch-ups, and adding tags to light poles.

Dianne: Where are the items on the punch list coming from? Is it things the construction team is noticing? Does Parks have input?

Ethan: I don't want to imply that things that are on the punch list are the only avenues through which things can get repaired. It's pretty much set, and the list was determined during turnover. However, if anything breaks and is under warranty and needs to be replaced, we'd be happy to investigate. If you notice something in the park, reach out to Parks or us to make sure it's on someone's radar.

Dianne: OK, so you have an ongoing collaboration with Parks on the punch list; is that correct?

Ethan: Yes, and on other issues that emerge in the park. We meet with Parks biweekly, and I'm in touch with other folks from Parks—including Terese—as needed.

Dianne: About the unfortunate weather delays, thank you for pointing that out and that Con Ed has been needed to do other things in the city this week. Do you anticipate any significant schedule impacts from that or changes to the order in which things happen?

Ethan: I don't have an answer, but I haven't heard anything about it impacting the long-term schedule.

Robin: The pathways in the park need to be shoveled. Also, the walkway along Delancey from Columbia down to the bridge is like being in the middle a construction zone. There's a line of equipment, and there seems to be no covering.

Ethan: Thank you; I will take that back and see what's going on. Also, if you notice it in the future, it would be very helpful if you could snap some photos. As for the park's paths, we'll work with Parks to make sure they're taken care of.

Terese: We're working on priority areas first which are perimeters and central pathways. The narrow paths require a gator plow, and one of them is out of service now, so we're trying to get it back up and running quickly.

Christine: I know I missed a few meetings so I might have missed it, but where are we with the Gantt chart that we requested?

Ethan: We included it with our December timeline announcement, and it's on the construction updates part of our website.

Trever: Going back to Wendy's question about events related to July 4th and the 250th anniversary (of the Declaration of Independence), do you have information about what will happen on the East River? I hadn't heard anything about tall ships or fireworks being on the east side.

Wendy: I can share a low-res. Image in the chat.

Frank: Pier 42 was shoveled pretty quickly, and I want to thank all the workers. Do you have any know if there's been any movement on Con Ed's transformer splicing work? That relates to the

parking that's closed off on Water Street near Jackson. I've been in touch with Tannia who I know is working on an answer, but I thought you might have an update tonight.

Ethan: I'm not sure, but I'll try to get an answer for you.

CAG-Only

Tara: Parks met with CM Epstein and CM Marte's offices last week. Capital funding limitations, so they're looking at umbrellas. They cost \$7,000 to \$9,000 each, but shade structures could cost \$80,000 to \$1 million and take up to three. Umbrellas would be quicker.

Robin: Do we know what these umbrellas look like? Did you say tables? We don't need any more tables.

Tara: The email (from CM Epstein's office) says "umbrellas/tables" -- we could ask Parks what they would look like.

Dianne: When we met with Parks to talk through the options, they were mostly talking about adding more umbrellas. They didn't mention any tables. I think it would be a good think to check on. In that meeting, we had talked about adding umbrellas near benches, near children's play areas, not trying to find space for more tables.

Tara: We can follow up with the electeds to see if Parks provided any specs.

Tara: That's the update I have. Are there new or additional items?

Dianne: We had also met with the Borough President's office. Was there any follow-up on that?

Tara: We followed up with them last week. They said their funding priority is arts and culture, and so we were thinking specifically about the amphitheater. We were told that Parks would have to make that request or it would have to be licensed by Parks. The CAG cannot submit a request, and my understanding is that the deadline has passed. If my memory serves, Parks would have some short leeway deadline-wise. So, at this point, the request would have to come from Parks, or we'd have to be planning for next year.

Dianne: When you spoke to the Councilmembers, did you get a sense of when we would get an update about the status of the request? How much they were proposing to allocate and exactly what type of shade they're talking about?

Tara: We can ask.

Max Deutsch (CM Marte's office): We don't have the exact details in terms of funding amount and timing. As part of the budget process, our budget director and the Councilmember will be going over the budget and applications for the next 3-5 months. In terms of the shade structure, they did provide mock photos of the different types of examples. As a follow-up, they were going to send us all of those. Once we get those, we can share the different options. And they didn't say anything about tables, just big umbrellas.

Robin: There are heavy-duty umbrellas in Downtown Brooklyn that are wind-resistant.

Dianne: When we talked to Parks, they were just proposing putting in more of those blue and green umbrellas that you see in the park now. Let's let the Councilmembers do their thing and then come back to us with what's on the table.

Robin: We don't want any tables.

Dianne: I agree; we have plenty of tables for the moment.

Wendy: Just want to mention the idea of a container for plants, so it's close to a bench and next to the irrigation system. This could shade some of the benches. I don't know how much it would cost, but I don't think it would violate the warranties for the other plantings.

Michael: Max, Friends of Corlears Park has received expense funding for years, and typically once it's awarded, we have to wait for the contract to be executed with the City. Until that time comes, we have to front the money and then get reimbursed. It's a year-long process. Is this going to work that way, too, or is this going to allocate into the Parks budget for them to deal with?

Max: I think it will depend on whether the funding is going to Parks or the CAG or Friends of Corlears. I should bring our budget director to the next CAG meeting because they'll be helpful with questions about the budget process.

Michael: In the past, we haven't found out that we're funded until, sometimes, August. Sometimes the fiscal year has already started, and we're already spending money on a grant that we don't know if we've gotten. Depending on how contentious the budget is between the Mayor and the City Council, we're not going to know.

Max: The budget process is complicated, and I'll make sure that our budget director is on the call next month so we can have a substantive conversation.

Tara: Are there any other questions or topics for today?

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:48 pm.