

ESCR CAG Meeting -- March 28, 2024
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Wendy Brawer Christine Datz Romero Dina Elkan Eric Goldberg Dov Goldman Ayo Harrington Trevor Holland Dianne Lake Michael Marino Sandy McKee Camille Napoleon Robin Schatell Shaheeda Smith

DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

1. Hiring compliance
 - a. Quarterly work with us session happened on March 13. There were 132 registrants; 11 from LES zip codes, 28 from Sandy-impacted zip codes. 73 opportunity seeking individuals joined. It was a great success. All the information can be found on the [website](#).
 - b. Upcoming events
 - i. Applications for DDC internship program for college and graduate students are due at the end of March.
 - ii. DDC hiring fair for jobseekers on April 3rd in Queens.
2. Overview of Contracts (*See slide 6*)
 - a. Most of the work remains the same for PA1; fields 1 and 2 are in progress; the nature exploration area is new; the Phase 1 esplanade is taking shape. Passive lawn is closed to provide staging ground for pedestrian bridges.
 - b. For PA2, the site restoration south of E. 20th St. is complete
 - i. Greenway is open; gates 7 was installed on March 25th, and gate 8 will be installed tomorrow. Then all of the floodgates in PA2 will be installed. Also, over 2,900 feet of floodwall are installed.
 - c. Parallel Conveyance
 - i. Corlears Hook Park
 1. Prep work for interceptor gate chamber and building construction
 2. Utility relocations and subsurface investigations in progress
 - ii. Houston and Delancey Streets
 1. Subsurface investigations in progress
 2. Utility relocations in progress

- iii. Avenue C (E. 18 - E. 23) locations
 - 1. ConEd abatement in progress
 - 3. PA1 Construction Activities (*See slide 8*)
 - a. Ballfields 1 and 2 are under construction
 - b. Esplanade construction really taking shape
 - c. Nature exploration area construction
 - d. Preparation of micro tunneling operations at E. 10th Street to connect the residential side to the park side for utilities; ongoing work at E. 10th Street as well.
 - 4. PA1 Construction Photos: Buried flood wall, tiebacks, cutoff wall north of Williamsburg Bridge; security wall around the bridge (*See slide 9*)
 - 5. PA1 Construction Photos: Nature exploration area (*See slide 10*)
 - 6. PA1 Construction Photos: Stairs and retaining wall in Corlears Hook Park; shared use path near Parks M&O retaining wall (*See slide 11*)
 - 7. PA1 – Fields 1 and 2 opening update (*see slide 12*)
 - a. We just received the update that the opening will be shifted to September 1st: “To uphold the safety of park users, this is the only path forward. The ongoing construction activities that must occur around the ballfields—involving large cranes and heavy construction equipment to install the hardscaping and other items—interferes with any safe public access path. In September, access will likely occur via the new Delancey Street bridge. Updates on the opening of other amenities in Phase 1 will be communicated at a later time. The overall program is still on schedule. We would like to invite the CAG to visit the site with us, so that together we can walk through the limitations.”

Q & A

Katie Loeb: I understood that the CAG would be seeing something about the difficulties of meeting the Memorial Day deadline and be helping to problem solve this and see the best way forward. I thought the CAG would be invited to site to help try to address issues presented here.

Desiree: Yes, we'll walk through the limitations and discuss some of the things that were reviewed. It will be easier when we're on site to see everything that's being discussed or being reviewed as to why that safe passage can't occur. We are happy to have a presentation on this as well.

Katie: OK, because my understanding was that you would be looking to the CAG for feedback on this situation instead of announcing that you're delaying the closure.

Desiree: We can certainly take feedback; we're always open to it. A lot of the limitations here are construction-based.

Jeff: We're happy to do this walkthrough next week if that aligns with everyone's schedules. We also reached out to the Parks' Department to put it on their radar.

Katie: I really hope that you'll consider the CAG's feedback in many situations. They have provided helpful guidance on making this project and increasing access for the public better.

I hope you won't rush to hasty conclusions and that the CAG will be fully included in the decision-making process on what needs to happen to make sure that we bring flood protections as quickly and efficiently as possible without sacrificing any of the uses of this park.

Jeff: Fully understood. Some of these decision points were based on technical engineering perspectives; when we're on site we can certainly walk through some of those limitations.

8. PA1 What We've Heard
 - a. Fireboat House
 - i. Section 306 Analysis of Alternatives is ongoing – no updates yet
 - ii. CAG written questions are being reviewed by City Hall, and we will share responses with CAG once City Hall provides them
9. PA2 Construction Progress – (*see slide 15*)
 - a. Area #1 – open
 - i. North entrance at E. 23rd St. closed for EDC Solar One construction work
 - ii. Greenway remains open
 - b. Area #2 - open
 - c. Greenway connecting to East River Park is open
10. PA2 Construction Photos – (*see slide 16*)
 - a. Gate 7 Foundation & Column Reinforcement
 - b. Bulkhead 1 Wall Monolith
 - c. Restoration of ConEd parking area
11. PA1 AQM | Monitoring Locations – have not changed; as construction moves north their locations will shift (*See slide 18*)
12. PA1 AQM | February 2024 Update (*See slide 19*)
 - a. Several alerts received; most of them were within a 15–20-minute range, and dust suppression techniques were applied.
13. PA2 AQM | Monitoring Locations - they've remained the same (*See slide 20*)
14. PA2 AQM | February 2024 Update (*See slide 21*)
 - a. Good number of lower alerts; one or two higher ones in the Murphy Brothers Playground area around ConEd where work has been ongoing, and dust suppression techniques were applied.
15. PC (Parallel Conveyance) Construction Progress (*See slide 23*)
 - a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Water St. & Corlears Hook Park
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Prep work for excavation for south interceptor gate chamber
 - b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - d. Location 4 – Houston & Avenue D
 - i. Test pits
 - e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E.18th
 - i. ConEd insulation abatement work
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E.20th to E.23rd
 - i. ConEd insulation abatement work

16. PC (Parallel Conveyance) Construction Photos (*See slide 24*)

- a. New Corlears Hook Park distribution water main connection
- b. Sewer test pit on Jackson Street
- c. Steam main abatement at E. 20th St.

Q & A

Ayo: I'd like to know more about the process that's being considered regarding the Ecology Center and the Fireboat House. What have you communicated, and when do you expect a response back?

Desiree: We can redirect you to the Section 106 process which is being led by the City and OMB.¹ There's not a definitive amount of time for the alternatives analysis; we've requested updates on that process, and there haven't been any to date. We're also waiting to see where the process is going and when we can expect next steps to occur.

Ayo: Understood; I will review it. Time is going by, and the CAG's not willing to wait until it's too late for a different decision than one that has been made in the past. It's a sensitive and important issue for the CAG, and we want to make sure that the consideration of the Fireboat House is taken as seriously as those for the Solar One area. We're asking you and your team to take it back to the appropriate agency that the CAG's asking for an answer, and we don't want it to take so long so as to disallow the Fireboat House to be saved.

Desiree: We will do that.

Ayo: I want to emphasize that this is not just a LESEC issue; it's a CAG-wide issue. Thank you.

Michael (in the chat): Those of us who are part of the Section 106 review were given this timeline:

1. Preparation of Alternatives Analysis (AA): ~6 weeks
2. Present AA findings to PA (Programmatic Agreement) signatories and consulting parties: 2-3 weeks
3. 30-day comment period: ~4.5 weeks
4. Review comments: 2 weeks
5. Respond to comments, schedule follow-up meeting with PA signatories and consulting parties, discuss possible mitigation options (if demolition is the preferred action): 2-3 weeks
6. Prepare draft Amendment to the PA: 1-2 weeks
7. Circulate PA Amendment for 30-day comment period: ~4.5 weeks
8. Review/respond to comments, execute amendment: 2 weeks

Note: If rehab. remains preferred action, steps 6-8 will not be necessary. We are currently at number 1 on the list (about a week or two in)

¹ More information about the Section 106 process is included on page 23 of the January 2024 CAG Meeting: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/escr/downloads/pdf/20240125_ESCR_CAG_Meeting_41.pdf

Dianne: We should all look at this; it has a new timeline for the process and the decision-making. It will take at least six weeks for the analysis of alternatives; then there will be multiple comment and response periods. It looks to me like this won't be resolved until sometime this summer

Christine: Thanks for sharing, Michael. This is a surprise because we heard at the January CB3 meeting that the analysis was underway, and now it's the end of March and they're saying they just started it. It feels like the clock is ticking, and there's a strategy of "let's just run out the time." There won't be meaningful time to discuss alternatives, and we might be stuck with bad decisions. I find that truly disappointing.

Desiree: I'd like to add that this is a standard process. Even though it's being pushed, the process remains the same; it still has to go through the whole process before any decisions are made. I will certainly bring this new information back and speak to our city counterparts and get some more answers.

Christine: I appreciate that the process needs to be followed, but we thought it had started almost three months ago, and just learned that it is only starting now. We just lost another three months.

Desiree: I understand that and will look into it with the team to see what happened three months ago when we were given that information and what's happening now.

Michael: The update that we got from OMB is that they haven't started their part because they were waiting for the engineer's report. I believe that what we were told started three months ago was the engineer looking at stuff, so they had to wait for the report before they could start.

Desiree: I will seek more clarification on all of this.

Sandra: We received some feedback from a community member on the pedestrian traffic study for 23rd Street and the FDR Drive

Desiree: We're actively working with the team to understand what's within and outside of the purview of the project. I don't have a date on when we can get a turnaround. I will circle back to see what the latest update is on that.

Sandra: Great, because we weren't sure if that was the final configuration for that site or not.

Desiree: I'll take this back to determine if there's additional work going on there or if that's roughly the final configuration. I'll have to confirm if anything is changing during the PC (Parallel Conveyance) work.

Sandra: We're wondering if we need ESCR and DOT together to help us understand who does what.

Desiree: I think that's a good idea; let me circle back to see where the status is with the review, and then we can determine if there's a CB 6 component, like a walkthrough or coming to the board.

Sandra: One other item was the "create a pedestrian plaza and optimize parking lot under the FDR between E. 18th and E. 20th Streets" - what's the status of that?

Desiree: That's under the Parallel Conveyance (PC) project which hasn't started the bulk of their work in the northern area yet.

Sandra: So, we're looking at 2025 or 2026? When do we think that's going to happen?

Desiree: I would imagine that would happen towards the end of the project, but I can try to find a better timeline for you.

Eric: The 23rd Street intersection is one of the scariest places I've crossed in the city; I encourage the team to get up there and see if there's anything they can do for the students and community who use that area. Also, ballfields 7 and 8 are in horrible condition, almost unplayable. Obviously, the goal is to keep parts of the park open, but there hasn't been a dime

for these fields. I really hope there will be some maintenance work done so that they're actually usable. Also, is there any ability now that the waterfront is open to have some Citibikes placed near fields 7 and 8 so people can get there? It's so hard to get to fields 7 and 8.

Desiree: I don't have answers to either of those, but we'll certainly discuss it with the team and Parks Department.

Wendy: On slide 19 PA1 AQM (Air Quality Monitoring), I see there are no readings at 10th Street yet, but that's very close to a playground and a popular picnic area, and there's a manufactured gas plant (MGP) at 10th Street. We know from the soil reports that part of the park has some of the most hazardous materials. I'm concerned about the health and well-being of the people who go there. Could there be some signage put up about potential health hazards? This is a picnic and barbecue area. How can we help the public health? We can already see that some of the highest readings and longest alerts are at Jackson Street where the PC work is being done. So what can we do about this? I know the Superfund sites like Gowanus are marked to warn people. I believe this part of the park is owned by the state, and we can go to the state health department if need be.

Desiree: There aren't readings at E. 10th Street because there haven't been any alerts or exceedances which means that there is not dust. It's not an unsafe area for children or folks to play in. The MGPs are underneath the soil, and if we enter an MGP area, a separate community air monitoring program (CAMP) is set up in addition to the air quality monitoring that is done. There is a process; our environmental team understands where that MGP is. It is not unsafe to use the park.

Wendy: There's tunneling underneath the FDR, correct?

Desiree: They haven't started yet; they're doing preparatory work right now.

Wendy: Given the community's concern about arsenic, I think this is something the CAG should be talking about. How do we protect public health during this work? Reporting a month later is kind of late for people to have done anything about it.

Wendy: How high are those security walls around the Williamsburg Bridge?

Desiree: I'd have to get back to you with that information.

Wendy: I worry about the park-to-prison pipeline. There's so much space for graffiti, and graffiti is forbidden. I would hate for any person from our community to get stuck in the criminal justice system for painting on these blank canvases that are being created all over the park.

Wendy: The last thing I want to mention is that we haven't seen renderings of the nature center in a long time. The earlier ones raised concerns because they would use trees that had been cut down in the park. Is that what you mean by transplant? We haven't seen any transplanted trees.

Desiree: Transplanted trees are those that are alive and dug up, moved, and replanted. None of the trees have been transplanted. Salvaged trees are those that have been cut down and then can be repurposed into things like park benches. The Parks department has a salvaging program, and we've provided numbers on which trees were able to be salvaged versus not and what they're proposed to be used for. We can find out if any of the trees in the passive lawn are going to be salvaged, but it was the intention of the nature play area to use salvaged trees from the park.

Wendy: Even though you got feedback about how traumatic and hurtful that would be for the community? I will say that I look forward to going to that nature center because what happens there matters to me and a lot of people in this community.

Dianne: I want to go back to the schedule for a couple of points. If it turns out that the new ballfields can't open until September 1st, I'm assuming that date would probably also apply to the new esplanade and the amphitheater because if it's unsafe to be on the ballfields I'm assuming it's unsafe to be in those other areas as well. Is it safe to assume that none of those areas would open before September 1st, or is it more nuanced?

Desiree: We don't have a response for that. It has been communicated to us that ballfields 1 and 2 cannot open until September. We will need to communicate the rollout of when the other amenities will open at a later time. Unfortunately, I don't have the answer to that right now.

Dianne: To Katie's point, when we do this walkthrough, we should talk about what this all means. We should be having a broader conversation than just two ball fields

Desiree: We will be on site, and we can talk about a number of things. The focus will be on access to the ballfields, but you can submit specific questions in advance. Regarding the timing: it would be great for the walkthrough to happen as soon as possible, but if we don't have many answers to questions, it might make sense to wait another week. We are happy to meet with you, and we'll do our best to discuss whatever questions you have. As Katie mentioned, we will take all the feedback you have to give.

Dianne: While we're happy for little league to have new ball fields, that's just one of our user groups in the park, and we have a lot of other stakeholders. So, the more ground we can cover about what's happening in that lower half the better. Also, I'm assuming that until this is resolved, there will be no further closures in the north since we're at 42.1% open now; is that right?

Desiree: Yes.

Dianne: Regarding the fireboat house, I think we all understand that this is a process that has to play out. I think the concerns about the length of the process and the start time are about how far along the rest of the park will be when these decisions are made. If the Fireboat house needs to be demolished, we as a CAG are advocating for a good stewardship space. LESEC has been the anchor of park stewardship for 20 years. We're really concerned that we'll get so far down the road with construction on the south end that by the time a decision is made and it's not the one we want, we're not going to have many alternatives for a new space, and that would be a huge blow. There is no world in which we're not including the LESEC as the anchor of the stewardship of the park. My concern is that clock's going to run out, and they'll say, "I'm really sorry, but we ran out of space for that, and there's nothing we can do."

Desiree: I understand that, and I know and hear there are a lot of concerns. As always, we'll bring back everything that has been voiced about the Fireboat House and the LESEC to the City.

Dianne: It's a very big deal. I just wanted to put the two schedule questions together.

Fannie: I just want to remind you that due to the PC work, the area on South Street between Montgomery and Jackson is experiencing a rat infestation, so please keep up with the rat mitigation you guys do, and if it's possible to do it more than regularly, that would be great.

Christine: I had the same question as Dianne, and I'm glad to hear there will be no more closures in the northern part of the park. You're saying that on September 1st hopefully more than a ballfield will be open in the southern part. When you first said they would open by the end of May, you said that you didn't know how people would get there. Do you have a plan for how people will access ball fields 1 and 2?

Desiree: By September 1, the access will likely occur via the new Delancey Street Bridge. Should anything prevent access via the Delancey Street Bridge, then I think the

team is fairly confident that access will be provided via the esplanade. So, by September there should be a viable option for access to the fields.

Ayo: What's the normal timeline for a Section 106 process to occur? It's been triggered; is that correct? Do you know what the normal timeline is once it's triggered?

Desiree: Different parts of the process and different projects take a different amount of time, but there is a standard process.

Ayo: I understand that there is a process. I'm hoping it doesn't go on forever. Is there a limitation for how long it can take?

Desiree: We'll get back to you on that. Certain steps of the process have prescribed review times, but we'll get back to you about if there's a limitation on the length of the full process, that once it's triggered, it cannot exceed a set number of days.

Ayo: So it has been triggered, correct?

Desiree: Yes, since the analysis of alternatives has started, it has been triggered. I will confirm this.

Christine: There's concern about the Fireboat House, but the compost yard is the other piece that was promised to be built within the ESCR timeframe. We don't know what's going to happen with the building, and the other one is under a time crunch. We saw some conceptual designs but nothing else so far. I just want to remind everyone that both these things are important to be built in the park, and they need to move forward.

Jeff: I just want to add that DDC and Parks are both waiting for that decision point (about the compost yard) from City Hall. We're waiting for guidance on the compost yard. We're just the designers and builders; we don't make policy decisions. We're here to do what the City requests us to do.

Katie: Are you able to advocate that the compost yard continues forward? If you could, that would be greatly appreciated.

Jeff: We could certainly do that. Some of that is above my pay grade as you can imagine, but we will certainly relay that to the Deputy Mayor's office who we report to.

Desiree: Paula, if you want to talk about what comes out of the CAG-only portion tomorrow or Monday, just let us know.

CAG-only portion

Michael: Since I missed the beginning of the meeting, what was the excuse for why the ballfields won't open until September 1?

Dianne: Construction danger, given the heavy equipment and that they'll be moving the boulders around for the nature play area, and so on, they don't think it's safe to let people on to those ballfields until September 1.

Michael: It's interesting because we brought this to them before, about "how's this going to work? You're going to have construction next to things that are open?"

Dianne: They're doing the responsible thing which is good, but I'm also concerned about what's going on with the other amenities down there. Are the bridges still on schedule? I think that was around Memorial Day weekend? In general, what does that mean for the southern area, not just those two ballfields? They're going to build and build, and I'm concerned that there will be no space to accommodate the LESEC.

Ayo: I agree and am angry. Also, we have talked about not wanting the Parks Department to permit in a way that's grandfathered because the pattern they've been using over the years has disallowed groups from the community from using the park. The school coaches and phys. ed. teachers have had years of trouble trying to get access.

Robin: In response to that, I've been saying this for a while: where's the Parks department? And regarding the ballfields, what are their plans to find solutions and alternative spaces? They don't come to the CB3 Parks committee meetings to report on any of this either. I'd love to hear from them.

Dianne: Last month we heard from Tony Rivera that the Corlears ballfield wasn't available for youth leagues even though it was supposed to be. Fields 7 and 8 are in rough shape, now 1 and 2 won't be opening for the summer season. There's a lot of crowding going on here, and it would be great to talk to Parks about what the plans are to mitigate this unexpected development.

Michael: We need clarity as far as permitting. Who has priority? I was always under the perception from Parks that once East River Park closed, Corlears was going to be prioritized for local groups. In an email exchange after last month's meeting with Tony and someone from Parks, they said that's not the case. Corlears isn't prioritized for local groups at all. When I raised the point that that was promised, I got no response.

Wendy: What if we gave them some dates for walkthrough? Time is of the essence

Ayo: That's a good idea. Thursday or Friday of next week?

Ayo: What time of day are people thinking? I would prefer the morning.

Christine: I was thinking we could start later in the afternoon since construction usually runs to around 3.

Ayo: I have no problem with that.

Michael: Will they limit us to 10 people?

Robin: If they limit us to 10 people, maybe they'll have to do it twice.

Dianne: What about Desiree saying that they might not be able to give us as many answers if we do the walkthrough next week?

Dianne: At the CB 3 Parks meeting, Parker reported that Parks has entered negotiations about reopening that space down there. He said there's a dialogue between DDC, the construction crew, and Parks about how complete something needs to be before Parks accepts it as being under their care. They want things to be to a certain state of completion so that taking care of it is easy. I'm wondering whether part of what's going on here is that Parks is also in the conversation saying what they expect and need in order to be able to say, "This is our space now, and we're going to run it."

Robin: Can we get Parks to come to a CAG meeting?

Christine: I don't understand why they're not part of all the CAG meetings. There are always questions coming up. For example, why do we need to rely on Desiree to tell Parks that ballfields 7 and 8 are in horrible condition?

Dianne: To Christine's point, we're representing the community here, and Parks should be hearing from us directly not through an intermediary.

Dina: Based on our experiences in Stuyvesant Cove, it's governed by the access agreements between the City entities and EDC. As long as that access agreement is in place, EDC legally has to defer to DDC, and DDC is responsible and liable. But as far as questions of substantial completion, I can tell you that our understanding also is that EDC and Solar One had to agree that Stuyvesant Cove Park was substantially completed before resuming responsibility. However, over the last couple of months they have claimed that, no, it *is* substantially completed and when you tell us that we're responsible for snow removal because we haven't done the handover yet, we're complying with that request just because we're such good neighbors. But the park was handed over when we reopened it in May. Both Solar One and EDC had said, "well, we never agreed to that, and that's not what you told us." And when we say that, we don't hear anything back.

Also, there are significant tissues with the redesign of Stuy Cove Park. The most important one deals with water pressure. We were told that at the ground hydrants in the plant bed it would be a minimum of 80 PSI and a maximum of 125 PSI. The water pressure at the ground hydrants is 35 PSI, not sufficient to water the plants. The contractor told the park manager that they deliberately designed it to not deliver a sufficient amount of water as a so-called efficiency measure. Our position on is that it's totally unacceptable. According to DEP, this happens frequently, and it's not because it was designed to more efficient, it's because contractors often do sub-standard work, pipes get crushed, leaks happen, and they try to pass it off as acceptable. I'm not sure what our recourse is. We kicked it back to LiRo and said, "You promised us this; we expect you to deliver this because that's what we need." And so, the plumber's going to come, and they say they're going to address this. If it turns out to be a pipe problem, I don't know exactly what will happen. Ultimately it would be up to EDC to try to get DDC to take responsibility for this. I don't know what the legal mechanics of that are or what would happen in that case, but I can say that they're extremely disingenuous. The work has been extremely sub-standard. How are we going to manage some of the things that they did? I cannot get anyone to take responsibility for the terrible design decisions that were made. Just so that everyone can be aware what our experience has been, it has been really a nightmare these past four years. Now that it's almost done, we're really hoping that the park hasn't been completely ruined and that there's a way for us to get them to take responsibility for what they have done wrong and for what they haven't done that they promised us.

Michael: That was so uplifting, Dina. I want to thank Katie for advocating for us. It is and always has been them just telling us stuff after the fact. It's never been a two-way street; it's never been them asking us to help solve a problem. It's always been, "Here's what you get; take it or leave it," basically.

Katie: Thank you for that. Every time they listen to the CAG the project becomes better, and I can't believe that they tried to not do that this time.

Wendy: Thanks to Katie and Fannie. I heard that the reason there's still plastic lining the bikeway by Stuy Cove is because it hasn't been turned over. The plastic lining won't come down until it's the City's responsibility to manage the graffiti. Maybe Dina has more insight on that, but I don't know if they've solved any of the problems like the tracks that are now filled with asphalt that people are falling in. Also, the no shade reality that's going to hit home very shortly.

Dina: Yes, they are supposed to take the plastic down. My understanding is that they're still arguing with DOT over who's going to have responsibility for maintaining the flood

wall and closing the flood gates. That wasn't worked out in advance. We actually asked for the asphalt to be put in the tracks because not only were they a trip hazard for people going through those floodgates, but it also made it impossible for people with mobility issues to get in and out of the park. They're supposed to be manufacturing some kind of permanent cover that can be easily removed if they need to close those gates. If something happens before they get those in place, then someone's going to have to come and dig that asphalt out in order for those floodgates to be closed.

Regarding the shade issue, we're going to work on a solution ourselves. We just applied to CM Powers for more capital money to pay for some shade structures. We also spoke to an architect and artist who are interested in doing a public art project to address the total lack of shade. We told them we needed shade structures seven years ago. There are also issues with the concrete; the esplanade is now made of concrete while it used to be pavers. We used to be able to replace those individual pavers when they became loose or went missing. Now no one seems to know how they can be easily repaired, and the salt is eroding it. We're already considering how we're going to need to put edging there. We pointed out to them that the lack of edging meant that the soil and mulch was going to be washed away, but they said, "Oh, no, no." We're having horrible problems with splashing from the river. The new bulkhead railing is already covered in salt in several places, and they put some of the benches close to the railings right near these splash zones where elders sit to look at the river. The whole thing is so crazy; why they would put so much impermeable concrete in a waterfront park in 2024? I can't get anyone to take responsibility for this. Who signed up for this? It certainly wasn't Solar One.

Robin: It sounds like a news story; a landscape architect needs to go down there and review this and make it public. You should get a news person to come down. If these are the same people who are designing the rest of the park, we're in trouble.

Dina: I would have to take this idea back to the VP of Asset Management for the park at EDC. I can't do anything that will blow up our relationship with the city. It's really about our relationship with EDC, because they're our landlord.

Robin: Let's talk offline

Dina: Yes, let's talk offline and possibly within a wider group within Solar One. It's very disturbing. If anyone would like more details or would like to come to Stuyvesant Cove, Candace and I would be happy to do a walkthrough with you at any time, and we can show you the various things that have been done or not done or badly done so that people can be aware. I'd also like to say that we had hoped that a brand new environmental center for LESEC would be part of the (ESCR) plan. We tried to advocate for that, along with many other people. The new Solar One building is a completely separate project from ESCR except that there's some coordination with the final landscaping around the building. We fundraised for it separately; it's a different construction management firm; it's a completely different situation. This is something that we've been working on for 20 years, and it just all happened to happen at the same time.

Christine: I appreciate that, Dina, and we all know that you've been planning for this for a long time. For East River Park, it was Parks saying that, "We want to preserve the Fireboat House." That was not our (LESEC's) decision; it was made by the Parks Department. And now we're being told it's not viable. Also, I want to make a comment about OMB saying that they don't have the engineering reports yet. I just don't understand how in December the City makes a presentation to us saying that they have the engineering reports that says the building is

structurally unsound, and they can't rescue it. They claimed to have a study for it in December, and in March OMB is saying, "Oh, we don't have the engineering studies yet." It's clearly a game of running out the clock, and we need to think about how to really call that out.

Wendy: I really appreciate what Christine just said. I worry about the design of a park that flows stormwater to FDR. That to me is such a strange thing to do because one inch of rain on 45 acres is a million gallons of additional water that we're putting into the system. I think there are a lot of design flaws here, frankly.

Next step: Pratt will reach out to DDC and provide three dates for a walkthrough: 4/9, 4/10, and 4/12 in the late afternoon, post-construction.

Katie: If they offer Carlina a walkthrough next week, how do you want to handle the CAG walkthrough?

Michael: I would say that if they offer Carlina a walkthrough that's separate from our walkthrough, then maybe some of us who are available can go with Carlina, and the rest can go the following week. Does that work for you, Katie?

Katie: It works for me if it works for you all. Dianne and Robin agree that it's a good idea.