

**ESCR CAG Meeting -- May 22, 2025**  
(via Zoom)

*Note: A recording of the meeting is not available due to technical challenges with both the Facebook live stream and recording the meeting via Zoom. As such, the meeting minutes may not be as comprehensive as usual.*

**CAG members present**

Martin Barrett Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Dov Goldman Trevor Holland Dianne Lake Michael Marino Sam Moskowitz Robin Schatell Susan Steinberg
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[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

**ESCR Presentation**

*Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo*

1. Work with Us Event held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Church on Grand Street
  - a. 86 registrants
  - b. 22 opportunity-seeking individuals attended
  - c. Six exhibitors
2. Overview of Contracts (*see slide 6*)
3. PA2 Construction Progress (*see slide 7*)
  - a. Punch list items throughout
  - b. Asser Levy Playground is open.
  - c. Stuyvesant Cove Park is open, but the North entrance at E. 23rd St. is closed for EDC Solar One construction work.
  - d. Murphy Brothers Playground is open.
4. PA2 Punch List: Sidewalk Replacement in Stuy Cove (*see slide 8*)
  - a. Stuyvesant Cove Park sidewalk to be closed in portions between E. 18 St. and E. 20 St.
    - i. Beginning Monday, June 2, 2025
    - ii. Work hours: 7:00am to 3:30pm
    - iii. Full operation expected to take two months
  - b. Closures to happen in sections, with northern portion of Park to remain open
  - c. Ferry access will not be impacted

- d. Full advisory to come
- 5. PA1 Construction Activities (*see slide 10*)
- 6. PA1 Park Opening: May 26, 2025 (*see slide 11*)
  - a. Access Corlears Hook ferry via temporary bridge
  - b. Access East River Park via Delancey Street bridge
- 7. PA1 Park Opening: What We Heard
  - a. Opening Day logistics: Delancey Street bridge will be unlocked between 9am-10am
  - b. Graffiti removal: DDC pilot program using laser technology
  - c. Parks Maintenance and Operations
- 8. PA1 Park Closures: May 27, 2025 (*see slide 13*)
  - a. E. Houston St. ramp is open
  - b. E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street bridge is open
  - c. E. 10<sup>th</sup> bridge is closed
  - d. Access to Stuy Cover Park is closed to E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- 9. PA1 Park Closure: What We've Heard (*see slide 14*)
  - a. Site Safety: Fence will be placed at beginning of Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk in Stuyvesant Cove Park
  - b. Greenway Detour: Existing Greenway detour remains in place
- 10. PA1 Utility Crossing near Delancey St. N
  - a. Excavations are required to accommodate Con Edison gas and electrical crossings into East River Park
  - b. Began Monday, May 19, 2025 - ongoing for about six weeks
  - c. Permits require nighttime working hours to reduce impact on FDR Drive traffic
  - d. Operation can be disruptive and loud due to roadway excavations (noise and air quality monitors in place)
  - e. Advisory and What's Going On? signage posted in the area and to website
- 11. PA1 Construction Photos (*see slides 17-20*)
  - a. Picnic and BBQ areas with umbrellas installed
  - b. Benches and pavers installed near Delancey lawn
  - c. Seating area near Nature Exploration area
  - d. Bike path striping installed
  - e. Planting area north of Picnic and BBQ areas
  - f. Tennis court paint applied
  - g. Basketball court paint applied
- 12. PA1 What We've Heard
  - a. Fireboat House
    - i. City responded to comments from Consulting Parties on April 30
    - ii. CAG is a Consulting Party
    - iii. City to schedule meeting with SHPO and the Consulting Parties to discuss possible mitigation options, which will be set forth in a new Amendment to the Programmatic Agreement

- iv. Fireboat House cannot be safely opened to the public with other amenity openings
- v. If there are questions about the fireboat house, please put them in writing.

- b. NYSDEC/NYCDEP (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation/New York City Department of Environmental Protection SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Violation)
  - i. Issued on 1/6/2022 for inadequate erosion control measures and 5-acre variance
  - ii. Violations rectified within two months and 5-acre variance issued on 11/4/2022 by DEP
  - iii. 2025 settled fines

13. PA1 Air Quality Monitoring Locations (*see slide 23*)

14. PA1 Air Quality Monitoring April 2025 update (*see slide 24*)

15. PC Construction Activities (*see slide 26*)

- a. Location 1 – Jackson St., Water St, South St., & Corlears Hook Park
  - i. Roadway restoration
  - ii. Utility relocation
  - iii. Sewer installation
- b. Location 2 – Lewis St. & Delancey St.
  - i. Test pits
  - ii. Utility relocation
  - iii. Deep sewer work is expected to begin in this area within the next several months. More information to come.
- c. Location 3 – Baruch Dr. & Delancey St.
  - i. Test pits
  - ii. Deep sewer work is expected to begin in this area within the next several months. More information to come.
- d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
  - i. Utility relocation
  - ii. Sewer installation
- e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Gas relocation
- f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
  - i. Test pits
  - ii. Utility relocation

16. PC Work in Vicinity of Corlears Hook Park (*see slide 28*)

- a. South St. & Jackson St. Closures
  - i. Beginning Tuesday, May 27, ongoing for approximately one week
  - ii. To facilitate concrete road base installation
  - iii. FDR Drive exit ramp to remain open
  - iv. This activity is weather-permitting
- b. Jackson St. Daytime Closure
  - i. Ongoing sewer work will continue to require daytime road closures

17. PC Construction Photos (*see slides 29-30*)

- a. Concrete base for Gouv. Slip E restoration
- b. Temporary asphalt installation during South St. restoration
- c. Sewer manhole installation on Jackson St.
- d. Gas main relocation on E. 18<sup>th</sup> St.

## Q & A

Martin: The summer concert season at Stuy Cove Park starts on June 23 and goes to August 13. Would the area of repaving be available three weeks after the start date of this work?

Nadine (PA2 CCL<sup>1</sup>): We don't have a specific timeline that can answer this question yet, but hopefully we will be done with that section by the time the concerts begin.

Desiree: Are concerts able to be relocated in the park?

Martin: There are no places to sit.

Desiree: We can take this offline and sort it out.

Robin: Is May 26th a soft opening, and will Parks staff be on hand?

Luc: We are working on details of a ribbon cutting the week of opening, but staff will be on hand on Monday.

Robin: Please keep us notified of the ribbon cutting.

Dianne: With regard to the punch list sidewalk work, does this mean access will be blocked? Also, with Captain Patrick J. Brown walk closed, people will need to enter/exit Stuy Cove Park from 18th and 20th Streets as well as the northern Greenway entrance. Please provide signage when there are closures.

Desiree: The work will be done in segments. The closures will affect only the waterside sidewalk, not the upper sections, but it will block segments of the lower sidewalk on a rolling basis as work proceeds.

Dianne: What is meant by a meeting to discuss possible mitigation options for the Fireboat House? Is mitigation about memorializing the Fireboat house or what could be put there in its place or something else? Also, why can't it be safely open to the public?

Desiree: You can submit these questions to us, and we can share it with the SHPO office; you can also let them know that the CAG wants to be part of the mitigation discussion. Also, the Fireboat House is unsafe because it hasn't been used in several years.

Michael: Do you know the number of cherry trees being planted in the PA1 area of Corlears Hook Park?

Desiree: No, but we can get back to you about this.

Michael: Were crews pouring water from Yodocks into the planted areas, and did they contain antifreeze? Crews were telling dog owners that.

Desiree: We will get back to you.

Michael: Can security be beefed up in Corlears Hook Park? It's particularly bad where concrete barricades meet the service road near the FDR.

Desiree: We will take that back.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Construction Liaison

Dov: What is the status of the parallel conveyance work that is being done and regarding the vibration monitoring once started? Specifically at Lewis and Delancey as it is next to our boiler plant, Public School, East River Housing and Hillman Housing.

Ethan (via email a few days later): Because no deep excavation work has begun, vibration monitors have not yet been installed in this area. However, before operations requiring deep excavation commence, the vibration monitors will be installed to ensure proper monitoring throughout the work. We will keep the community informed as that phase of construction approaches.

Wendy: With the Stuyvesant Cove Park sidewalk replacement, will the bike lane remain open between 18th and 20th?

Desiree: Yes.

Wendy: Google Maps still directs people to bike on South Street. Potholes make it very dangerous. Can you please check on the condition of roadways here? I think more needs to be done to slow motor vehicles down in this area.

Desiree: We will take that back.

Wendy: Also, I think we need better signage for the detour; it's a very dangerous area.

## **CAG-Only**

Paula: Katie, can you please give the CAG an update about what CM Rivera's office is doing in response to the CAG's letter to request funding for shade structures?

Katie Loeb, from CM Rivera's office: Shade is very important to the Councilmember...

Once the new portions of the park are opened, we will need to continue dialogue on what areas are too hot and can be enhanced by safe, durable shade structures. We can arrange for a site walk-through to discuss this.

Wendy: Fast-growing grasses are another way to increase shade; there's a precedent from Yonkers. Can the fines from the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Violation be used toward shade?

Katie: Thanks for those suggestions. Yes, send us information about the precedent from Yonkers. I don't want to let the City off the hook; this should be part of the park...

Katie: Councilmembers Powers and Rivera are advocating for lighting for the track; we're hopeful but haven't heard back yet.

Paula: Does anyone else have other topics or issues to bring up?

Wendy: I biked the model for the new greenway/pinch point that is near the East 50/60s. The entrance is way too narrow. I was on my bike, and there was another person with a dog, and we overwhelmed the space. The RFP is coming out, but it's still very early. I think it will have to have a ramp, but it's going to be heavily used by runners, and I'm worried it will be too narrow. I think we should advocate for the width to be adequate.

Dianne: This other greenway project is actually a DDC project. We asked for the pinch point to stay open because we don't know what the future design will be. Although it's not technically part of ESCR, the CAG should push for DDC to get us a plan. Also, all the greenway detours

that are being published are unsafe for pedestrians. It is inappropriate to suggest that they are appropriate detours for older folks and people with dogs. Wendy, I'm glad you brought up these concerns. The CAG should push for safety improvements on these detours and push DDC to get us an answer for what's going to happen with the over-water greenway extension and how it will affect Stuy Cove Park.

Robin: It would be easy to create a bike or pedestrian lane around South Street.

Wendy: We also need slow signs.

Trever: Although South Street is BMCR,<sup>2</sup> there's barely enough room for pedestrians to walk. Adding a bike lane would be problematic.

Sam: I walk or bike that strip between Montgomery and Brooklyn Bridge. Like Trevor said, there's no room to add a dedicated bike lane unless they agree to divert car traffic.

*Not sure who said this:* We'll better understand the danger areas when the places close in the north.

Dianne: We should be talking about replacing the Fireboat House bathrooms.

Wendy: Can we get a copy of the environmental settlement? Can money be used for stuff the budget can't cover? It might have to be FOILED. Also, are we creating a new pinch point? Who can the CAG target for advocacy/pressure to hurry up and show us what is planned for that area and how long it will take?

Next steps:

- 1) *Safety improvements for pedestrians and bikers:* The CAG should push for safety improvements on the greenway detours and push DDC to provide an answer for what's going to happen with the over-water greenway extension and how it will affect Stuy Cove Park. Paula to draft up these points and share with the CAG for feedback before sharing with DDC.
- 2) *Fireboat House:* Paula to send outstanding questions back to the CAG (the ones that were shared with DDC in February 2024) to see which ones are still relevant given that the CAG is now a consulting party to the Section 106 process. She will include the reports and documents that OMB's Julie Freeman has since shared.
- 3) *SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Violation):* Paula to get more information about the settlement and to try to find out about the fines and where they go/if they can be applied to the purchase of shade structures.

*Meeting ended at approximately 5:25 pm.*

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<sup>2</sup> Brooklyn Bridge-Montgomery Coastal Resiliency