

ESCR CAG Meeting -- January 26, 2023
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Michael Marino Susan Steinberg Christine Datz Romero Dianne Lake Trevor Holland	Wendy Brawer Damaris Reyes Robin Schatell Dina Elkan Ayo Harrington
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DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Hiring Compliance (*presented by Trang Bui*)
 - A. PA1 data is through November, PA2 and PMCM¹ is through December
 - B. Total PMCM Staff: 142
 1. 33% from Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises subs, with 23% being female (triple the industry average in construction managers)
 - C. Total general contractors (GC) staff: 986
 1. PA1 GC total staff: 538 with 42.7% new hires
 2. PA2 GC total staff: 448 with 35.7% new hires
 - D. ESCR PA1 & PA2 Current Progress
 1. PMCM: 4 new hires,
 2. IPC (GC for PA1): 3 new hires
 3. Perfetto (GC for PA2): 2 new hires
 - E. Strategy & Good Faith Efforts
 1. GCs continued outreach to labor unions to involve locals and Section 3 hires to ESCR project
 2. Next virtual info session Feb. 28th 5–6PM
 3. Continued support and partnership with Lower East Side Employment Network, Henry Street Settlement, Workforce 1, Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development, etc.
- II. Q&A
 - A. Wendy: Can we get information on where the new hires live for PA1, like you did at one point for PA2, so we can understand how many people are coming from Manhattan?
 1. Trang: Yes, we can, as soon as that data is updated.

III. Construction Progress/Approach (*presented by Desiree*)

¹ Program Management Construction Management

- A. Project Area Overview
 - 1. No big updates, PA1 and PA2 are moving forward with construction
- B. PA2 | Construction Progress
 - 1. Stuyvesant Cove Park
 - a) Area #1 is wrapping up, anticipated reopening in early 2023
 - b) Area #2 scheduled reopening in early 2024
- IV. Access / Signage / Safety
 - A. PA2 | Current Greenway Access
 - 1. Greenway (area north of E. 20th St.) is open
 - 2. Stuyvesant Cove Park Ferry access remains open and accessible between PA1 and PA2
 - B. PA2 Upcoming Greenway Access
 - 1. Week of Feb 6, 2023
 - a) Greenway from E. 20th St. South will close; access to East River Park from Stuyvesant Cove will end
 - b) Access East River Park via detour at E. 10th St. or E. Houston St.
 - c) Ferry access will remain open via E. 18th St.
 - d) Detours will be posted
- V. Construction Progress / Approach
 - A. PA1 | Early 2023 Construction Activities
 - 1. Combi-wall installation is happening
 - 2. Significant utility work around Montgomery St. and South St. to prepare that area for floodwall construction this year
 - 3. Southern portion of project has a lot of activity coming up
 - 4. Ballfield #3: critical sewer bypass work and soil stabilization is ongoing for the next 6 weeks; it will be restored for ball season
 - 5. Partial FDR lane closures (which happen typically overnight) being coordinated with DOT
 - B. PA1 | Delancey St
 - 1. Sidewalk closure at Delancey St is ongoing
 - a) Pedestrian detour based on feedback they received, additional signage posted and photocell lights along detour barriers
 - 2. Overnight weekend closure of FDR Drive Service Road anticipated Feb. 4 (new date)
 - C. PA1 | Corlears Hook Archaeology
 - 1. Remains of sugar refinery and iron refinery have been recorded by archaeologists; LPC and SHPO agree this area can be backfilled
 - 2. Updated photos on slide 10
 - 3. Oversight and review by SHPO, THPO, LPC, and NYC Parks
 - 4. They are working on putting up a nice project sign with photos and information, but in the meantime will put up a temporary sign
 - D. PC | Construction Progress
 - 1. Construction activities focus on the southern portion of the project

2. Location 1 (Jackson St. and Water St.): Mobilization of equipment; tree guards installed, test pit operations
3. Location 2 (Lewis St. and Delancey St.): Project Area Survey

VI. Environment

A. PA1 | AQM | December 2022 Update

1. The PM daily value (24-hour TWA) did not surpass the PEL for November.
 - a) Just a few of exceedances due to some vehicle traffic and other construction activities; dust suppression techniques were supplied
2. There are 14 monitors currently (locations haven't changed)

VII. Community Programming & Coordination

A. ESCR to your school

1. First local school presentation occurred on Jan. 25 - Learning Spring School
 - a) It was a success; students had lots of questions
 - b) They're looking into doing more of these

VIII. Q&A:

- A. Desiree: We received questions from Tara and Paula, and we will get responses to those questions before the next CAG meeting.
- B. Michael: I have questions regarding archaeology; I'm glad to hear you are working on a sign. What is the new timeline (previously mid-January was the estimated completed time)?
 1. Desiree: I will get back to you with an updated timeline. They uncovered more elements associated with the residential properties, which may be why it is taking more time.
 2. Michael: The area that you said was now deemed to be backfilled—does this mean what they discovered will stay and be covered up?
 3. Desiree: Correct.
 4. Michael: And it will be documented so that, if a hundred years from now they decide to dig up the park again, they'll know it was there already.
 5. Desiree: Correct.
 6. Michael: If possible, it would be great to have an updated announcement to the community about the dig. I'm concerned because there is a discrepancy between what we're being told here that nothing of significance is being found, but residents are talking to people doing the work who are being told otherwise. Some of this might be misunderstanding, but it would be great to just clear this up.
 7. Desiree: This question did come up during the CB3 meeting—the original report we gave said nothing of significance. SHPO has different guidelines about levels of significance. When we said nothing of significance, we meant nothing that would be a red flag or nothing of significance that we didn't expect to find there. As you can see from the

photos, they're finding lots of stuff out there and that is all being reviewed and tested. Once they figure out what they've found, that will be communicated in an update. So I think it was a misunderstanding related to the different uses of the word "significant."

C. Trevor: Is it standard procedure for SHPO, etc., to rebury objects that are found, regardless of significance?

1. Desiree: For this project, it was determined the site would be exposed and then would be covered again. They are doing soil testing, documentation is being made, and nothing has been found that would stop work on the project. They are finding normal objects. In the sugar refinery and iron foundry spot, it has been determined that they've found and documented everything they need, and it can be covered again. Once they're finished with the residential areas—making sure they have everything they need, and everything documented—then they will do the same in that area. Right now, everything is still under investigation. Once the investigation is completed, we will have multiple updates.

2. Trevor: As a follow up, why did this not happen during the original construction of the park—was it because rules and regulations were different, or did they not dig far enough?

3. Desiree: I don't know, but we can look into that.

D. Trevor: The edge of Montgomery St. is where ESCR meets BMCR, and we're seeing a lot of truck traffic and staging on residential streets. Additionally, there are other construction projects happening unrelated to ESCR and BMCR. It's unclear which projects the different trucks are affiliated with. We need to figure out a way to manage this traffic and these trucks.

1. Desiree: You're right, there is a lot of work happening down there. We will try to coordinate that work better. If residents could use the inquiry tool—or if you all are getting calls and can tell us as soon as it's happening—then it would be easier for us to pinpoint which projects they are affiliated with. There are not construction activities happening right now for PC or BMCR—only test pits—so if there are a lot of construction trucks lined up it might not be for those projects.

2. Trevor: Thanks; maybe offline we can talk about a separate meeting to discuss this.

E. Trevor: Following up on the bike detour on Allen and Pike—the bike lanes were flooded following the rain, and it's not a safe detour; I'm wondering if you were able to make any progress on that.

1. Desiree: The concern has been relayed to this team and DOT and we're hoping to get a response as soon as we can, and we will follow up.

F. Dianne: Have you anticipated how long the pinch point closure will last?

1. Desiree: We don't have an exact timeline currently. We have made it clear to everyone involved that it is an important community connection between PA1 and PA2. We will try to get more details on how long it will be closed.

2. Dianne: My second question is about Delancey Street. People aren't understanding how the piers for the new bridge are going to be installed and how this will affect future pedestrian traffic flow. What will it look like in the future?
 3. Desiree: There are renderings and plans that show how the pedestrian bridge will work. The pier is right on the corner of that sidewalk. The sidewalk will still be operational, and the ramp will be positioned similarly to where it was. There will still be pedestrian access under the new pedestrian bridge and across the street and to access the sidewalk. I would have to pull up past renderings to understand where exactly the piers lay, and I can pass along that information. We can also try to post smaller renderings (that are easier to replace if they get vandalized) around the project areas so people can see what the projects will look like. That was our intention with the decorative construction fences, but they were vandalized.
- G. Wendy: Could the bricks found in the archaeological site be reused in the park?
1. Desiree: I think that would require a big change in the contract, and I believe they want to keep the archaeological site intact. I can bring the question back, but that is unlikely to happen.
- H. Wendy: How many trees will be removed for the southern PC work?
1. Desiree: The team is looking into that because we've had some inquiries come in. We understand that is a concern and we will get back to you.
- I. Wendy: Will you be visiting schools right by the park as part of the community programming?
1. Desiree: When we did the call for art, we contacted our list of all the schools in the area. During the first round of ESCR to your school we initially reached out to the schools that were the most engaged in the call for art program. We plan to reach out to a good variety of schools in the project area.
- J. Wendy: Can we get some solar powered emergency call boxes (like we used to have) in the park?
1. Desiree: That would be a Parks question. Tara and Paula are reaching out to Parks about this.
 2. Tara and Paula: We already did reach out to parks.
- K. Robin: It would be a great opportunity to do public programming in the park related to the archaeological dig so that the community can interact with that—if it's possible.
1. Desiree: We have had several requests to allow community members to come onsite, but unfortunately at this time it's not possible. We are putting together information onsite via signage to help engage folks, though.
 2. Robin: What's the reason behind leaving the site intact if it is going to be reburied?
 3. Desiree: That is something they decided before construction started.

CAG-Only Portion

- I. Paula: The floor is open for this part of the call!
- II. Michael: Other than cautious skepticism about what they're actually finding at the dig site, I don't have anything.
- III. Dianne: Before the new year we talked about having them address the longer-term schedule for reopening of parts of the park that are under construction. It would be helpful to have a new update about that.
- IV. Robin: It would be helpful for Parks to address this group and follow up about these newly made recreation spaces. The Seward Park High School lawn was sometimes made available to the public, but it is usually locked.
 - A. Tara: They will be coming back to us re: our commitment letter; we just haven't set the date yet. We know that some of the schoolyards are supposed to be made available. We are meeting with DOE and will see if Seward Park is part of that, and if so, why is it locked. We will also touch base with Parks.
 - B. Robin: Thanks. It would be great to communicate that to the larger community as well.
- V. Wendy: Related to what Robin said, it would be nice to have a clearer picture of accessible public spaces to go—we've asked for dog parks and running paths to be added to maps, but they just put links to other maps. I'm also concerned about the cars racing through where the Delancey work is going on.
- VI. Wendy: Are we going to have a presentation on the ConEd on the work they're doing, as well as the work being done on PC?
 - A. Paula: We can take that back to DDC.
- VII. Wendy: The city has put out a new map about green infrastructure, and they're calling the artificial turf they put in "green infrastructure." Do you know why?
 - A. Paula: I don't, but I've asked Parks, and they confirmed receipt of the question.
- VIII. Wendy: Has anyone noticed if there is better lighting at 6th St in the park?
 - A. Paula: I also asked Parks if that had been addressed.

Meeting adjourned a little under an hour early.