

ESCR CAG Meeting -- February 24, 2022
(via Zoom)

CAG Members Present

Charles Krezell Dina Elkan Dianne Lake Dov Goldman Don Hartley (sub for Michael Marino) Frank Avila Goldman	Michael Marino Martin Barrett Seth Coren Susan Steinberg Sandra McKee Trevor Holland	Tony Rivera Richard Heitler Robin Schatell Vaylateena Jones (sub for Sam Moskowitz) Wendy Brawer
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DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

[Link to Slide Deck](#)

- I. Hiring Virtual Resources Event Recap
 - A. Key resources are on slide 4
- II. Overview of Contracts
 - A. PA1
 - 1. Notice to Proceed issued to contractor August 16, 2021
 - 2. Partial park closure south of Stanton Street and Greenway closure
 - B. PA2
 - 1. Asser Levy Playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park at E. 20th Street north to Solar One Area
 - 2. Over 650 feet of floodwall installed
 - C. Parallel Conveyance (PC)
 - 1. Bid advertised on 11/12/21
 - 2. Bid opened 2/10/22
- III. PA2 Construction Updates
 - A. PA2 Construction Photos (*slides 9-10*)
 - B. ESCR Website Environmental Monitoring
 - 1. The website incorporates quarterly monitoring reports
 - 2. CAG monitoring summaries
 - 3. CAG monitoring factsheets (English-only but will be updated to include other languages)
 - C. PA2 AQM Update
 - 1. PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of December
- IV. Q & A:
 - A. Dina: This is the first I have heard about a swinging gate near the blacktop, which way does the gate swing?

1. Desiree: It swings north.
 2. Dina: So, it is inside our leased area?
 3. Desiree: I am not clear on where the lines are. This might be a conversation between DDC and EDC and was coordinated in regards to the leasehold.
 4. Steve: The pivot point of the gate is on the south point of the gate and swings out to the east. So, it does swing into the space that we lease.
 5. Ophelia: We can go back and confirm if it infringes on the property. I will be reaching out to you after this call to set up a tour of the construction updates
- B. Steve: We have sinkhole issues in the Stuy Cove area. I am concerned about the bulkhead. The sinkholes seem to be tied to areas where there is bulkhead deterioration.
1. Ophelia: We have had discussions with EDC about the bulkhead, we will loop them into this conversation.
 2. Steve: Don't want to rebuild park on sinkholes
- C. Wendy: Can CAG members go on a tour of PA2 and PA1?
1. Ophelia: We can set up a separate CAG tour if CAG members are interested in touring PA2
- D. Wendy: Did you include health information in the air quality monitoring fact sheet?
1. Desiree: No, this fact sheet is how air quality monitoring is being completed in ESCR, there is limited space.
 2. Wendy: Are you going to do another letter about health impacts?
 3. Desiree: There are not meant to be health impacts from the ESCR project and that is why we have the levels of oversight and the levels have been great.
 4. Wendy: Is there any city agency that is tracking such as the Department of Health?
 5. Desiree: There have been no exceedances for the Department of Health to be engaged, have environmental oversight from DDC, DEP, etc.
- V. PA1 Construction Updates
- A. Shallow clearing and grubbing activities and utility work continue in the closed area of the park
 - B. ConEd utility work near the ferry landing
 - C. Corlears Hook Park partial closure to facilitate construction activities starting the week of March 7, 2022
 - D. Delancey Street sidewalk closure continues
 - E. ConEd work in Shared Use path around E. Houston Street continues
 - F. E. 10th Street ConEd Utility replacements - date TBD
- VI. PA1 Corlears Hook Park
- A. Partial closure including site preparation to begin the week of March 7, 2022 - will include flag pole area

- B. DDC and NYC Parks met with Friends of Corlears Hook Park to review salvaging materials
- C. Access to ferry will be maintained
- VII. Q & A – Corlears Hook Park
 - A. Don: Will the walkway path that will be running along the gatehouse be allowed to be open until they do the work for the gatehouse?
 - 1. Desiree: This whole portion will be closed and there won't be anywhere to get to. Would cause a dead end between FDR and the fence; therefore, there is a chance this whole area would be closed.
 - 2. Don: We ask that access be maintained till the gatehouse is closed.
 - 3. Desiree: I can take that back, but we don't want to create an unsafe condition where someone could be trapped.
 - 4. Desiree: Speaking to questions about Jackson St. being a viable location for a temporary pedestrian bridge. ESCR boundary limits end at the ferry terminals therefore that is not feasible.
 - B. Tony: How long will construction run and will ball fields be available through the construction period?
 - 1. Desiree: Ball fields will not be affected by the work and will remain open.
 - C. Trever: Has NYC Parks reached out to people about the dangers of eating vegetation in Corlears Hook Park?
 - 1. Desiree: We will take that back to NYC Parks. Our CCL has left several signs about the construction happening there. Have not heard back. If anyone in the neighborhood sees people out there, please let us know.
 - D. Wendy: Where is the location for the temporary bridge?
 - 1. Desiree: The location is still preliminary, it would be stemming from Corlears Hook Park, travel along the sidewalk area between Corlears Hook bridge and Jackson then cross over FDR into the south portion.
 - 2. Wendy: Why can't it go further south into the parking lot area? I would like to preserve the 33 trees that are there.
 - 3. Desiree: The area south of the passive lawn area is overseen by EDC for Pier 42. That area is under construction, and a temporary bridge needs to fall within ESCR limits.
- VIII. PA1 Air Quality Monitors Location
 - A. Monitoring machines are on site to measure particles from construction vehicle emissions and dust as well site conditions such as wind speed.
 - B. Strategically placed along the edge of construction activities and will move with construction.
- IX. PA1 AQM January 2022 Update
 - A. The PM daily value did not surpass the PEL for the month of January
- X. PA1 Decorative Mesh Fencing Panels.
 - A. Panels are being installed and will be available on the ESCR website to view as well.
- XI. What We've Heard

- A. Track House and Tennis Center Comfort Station - OMB was not available for this meeting; additional questions can be submitted through Pratt.
- B. Parks vehicles are allowed to drive throughout the park; other working vehicles are encouraged to use the shared use path.
- C. Erosion and sediment control is actively monitored onsite including tracking pad and other mitigation measures.
- D. Tree removals were determined in the design phase based on construction impacts, in coordination with Parks. Any tree removals or impacts must be permitted with Parks Forestry permit and can be found online via the NYC Parks Tree Work Permits website.
- E. Passive lawn will be coordinated with NYC Parks to assess conditions of fields once the weather is warmer. Some tree stands have been retained for passive lawn users.

XII. Q & A

- A. Charles: I am curious about access to ballfields at East Houston Street. There are only two access points to the ballfields, will there be a better way to access them?
 - 1. Desiree: We can bring that back to the NYC Parks department, especially for the spring when the ball fields are heavily used.
 - 2. Charles: The ConEd work that is being done - how long will it be going on?
 - 3. Desiree: In the CB3 presentation and previous CAG presentations we have included a sketch of what is going on. The work will happen in three phases and each phase will close for several months
 - 4. Charles: Do you anticipate that work interfering with recreational games that might be going on in the ballfields?
 - 5. Desiree: The work is meant to not impact open spaces. There will be cranes and sheet piles, a portion of the park might need to be temporarily closed to move materials; however, this would be communicated with NYC Parks ahead of time.
 - 6. Charles: Might be better for NYC Parks to cut a new gate along the 6th street bridge.
 - 7. Desiree: I will bring that back to NYC Parks.
- B. Vaylateena: Does the Corlears Hook Park bridge interfere with the park where the children play and where there is soccer?
 - 1. Desiree: Will not interfere with open areas. The hills where kids were sledding will be under construction along with flag pole areas.
 - 2. Dov: I don't think Jackson Street is the safest place for people to plan walking where cars are getting on to FDR.
 - 3. Desiree: That was looked at as an option but determined not feasible.
- C. Frank: When I heard mention of a bridge on Jackson St., is it only not feasible because of Pier 42?
 - 1. Desiree: There are a lot of reasons, including that the benefit of starting at Corlears Hook Park is that the grade is much higher at Corlears Hook Park.

- D. Robin: It'd be great to know reasons why Jackson Street temporary bridge would not work.
 - 1. Tara: The main reason being Pier 42 and other reasons as well.
- E. Robin: There has been a change in the wind because of the loss of trees, will that be monitored?
 - 1. Desiree: I can bring that back.
- F. Wendy: I noticed that there is significant sewer work going on along Jackson Street
 - 1. Desiree: Yes, I believe there is parallel conveyance work that will happen during PC.
 - 2. Upcoming closures are for Corlears Hook Park, not Jackson Street that I know of.
- G. Wendy: Is there a plan to make the park more accommodating this summer, i.e., shaded areas, a picnic zone?
 - 1. Desiree: I will have to bring that back to NYC Parks.
 - 2. Wendy: A steward shed would be nice for those caring for the park. There is a lack of upgrades for the remaining open portion of the park.
 - 3. Desiree: I would imagine NYC Parks does not want to put too much into a park that will be under construction in a year but I will bring that back to NYC Parks.

CAG-Only Portion

- I. Prioritizing CAG concerns
 - A. Paula: Good moment to revisit main categories of questions and unaddressed items and prioritize what is the most urgent. We've drafted a list of items as a jumping off point.
 - 1. Don: Main concern is the park staying open and accessible throughout the construction of the project.
 - 2. Martin: Are items listed just for PA1?
 - 3. Tara: For the most part, but this is not an exhaustive list.
- II. Parallel Conveyance:
 - A. Paula: DDC has said they can do a presentation for those interested in parallel conveyance meeting; who is interested?
 - 1. Michael, Wendy, Susan, and Frank indicate their interest.
 - B. Tara: I Will send an email after the meeting for people who are interested
- III. Preserving the Track House and Tennis Center Comfort Station
 - A. Tara: We got a letter in response from OMB, and it ignored the request that was made. Would like to take time for outstanding questions we want to pose to OMB.
 - B. Paula: Does anyone want to promise the next step in this manner?
 - 1. Michael: Does it make sense to send a follow-up letter, or will we get the same non-response?

2. Dianne: Concerns me that CAG was ignored, and the letter was addressed to someone else. Is there a way to contact OMB more quickly?
3. Tara: We can reach out to OMB contacts for a more immediate response
4. Frank: Since they are saying that the Track House work is not yet scheduled, maybe there will be a more meaningful response.
5. Tara: I will raise this with DDC.
6. Trever: OMB should be invited to the next meeting.

IV. M/WBE and Section 3 Hiring

- A. Paula: This has been a CAG priority. As Desiree reported, because of litigation they were not able to report on hiring numbers before now, but they will at next month's meeting. Is there anything else that is urgent regarding this?
 1. Wendy: I thought Damaris's suggestion to send job openings out to the CAG was good.
 2. Frank: I think it was mentioned earlier that there was a job fair. I'm not in favor of directing jobs through the CAG because there are many neighborhood-established CBOs doing this work.
 3. Wendy: I meant to send it to LESEN.
 4. Frank: Did DDC mention that they had reached their hiring goal? -- because it was announced at the job fair that they had exceeded their percentage already. It would be a point to pressure them to focus on neighborhood zip codes.
 5. Tara: Desiree mentioned they will be starting to report out shortly.
 6. Trever: We should wait until next month's meeting to see what DDC has prepared. I will say if someone knows someone who needs a job, please send them ESCR or LESEN postings.

V. Amenities to improve community well-being

- A. Tara: It seems NYC Parks has not presented this information but making sure that areas of the park that remain open are adequate is important. How should we move forward to assist in that?
 1. Dianne: It would be good to have a constructive exchange of what park users think could improve park conditions. Amenities outside of the park that are of concern include the condition of bicycle lanes and if bike detours are safe. Another concern is the lack of replacement of the greenway.
 2. Paula: Can you clarify what you mean about greenway replacement?
 3. Dianne: The shared-use path is the greenway; people feel there are no safe alternatives to the shared use path.
 4. Sandra: The continuation for the greenway was very popular and a big concern for people to the north as well.
 5. Wendy: I'd like to second what Dianne is saying about the greenway. Would you like to hear about the gardens?

6. Charles: Gardens will be open in April and are open to the public, whether the NYC Parks Department will take extra measures to the gardens will depend. People in the gardens last year were in fear because of public drinking.
7. Wendy: Would like to advocate for a team of people expanding to take care of the gardens and having paid maintenance people and support staff.
8. Charles: Not aware of anything related to the NYC Parks Department paying for garden maintenance.
9. Trever: Often helpful to present an alternative to NYC Parks; Dianne, did you have anything in mind?
10. Dianne: Most people are running down the West Side of the FDR, being able to collaborate on how to manage that space safely seems like the organic alternative.
11. Frank: I see a lot of people go under Delancey Street bridge and it is not safe, needs to be reexamined.

VI. Phasing

A. Tara: Any questions on phasing?

1. Stephen: Would like an update about phase III of PA2. Also, information about the berm that is built and some phasing with that.
2. Dianne: The CAG has not been consistent with phasing; should the CAG go back to that?
3. Martin: No straight answer about the available call box. Also, the berm will be the soil that is piled up between the East River and the wall.

VII. Air Quality/Filters

A. Wendy: Three monitors that have been up since June, but are there other kinds of data such as health data?

VIII. Additional Items:

A. Frank: When will by-laws be passed?

1. Tara: It will be voted on soon, and you all will be hearing from Paula.

B. Trever: There is a mass mailer with technical details of what is promised.

IX. Tara: Conversation will continue at the next CAG meeting. Priority items include phasing schedule and Track House & Comfort Station. Please vote on the by-laws.