

## **Brooklyn Bridge Park Community Advisory Council Meeting**

334 Furman Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 6:30PM

### **MINUTES**

#### **Attendees**

##### **Community Advisory Council**

Aldona Vaiciunas, Ariana Martuscello, Bennette Kramer, Bill Stein (for Katrin Adam), Carolyn Ziegler, Cynthia McKnight, Doreen Gallo, Howard Kolins, Judson Horn, Linda Derosa, Sandy Balboza, Todd Castilow

##### **Brooklyn Bridge Park**

Eric Landau, David Lowin, ~~Sarah Krauss~~

#### **Park President's Report and Discussion**

##### **Squibb Bridge**

Eric Landau gave an update on the Squibb Park Bridge. He said that they will tear down and rebuild the bridge and build a new bridge using the existing foundation. The Public Design Commission is performing a conceptual review. It will go before the local community board before going before the PDC for final approval this ~~month~~Spring. Turner will be the construction manager working with ARUP, the engineer. The renderings are being finalized now. The bridge will have wood decking with supports and sides out of steel, using the original tower/stanchions. They project a summer 2020 opening.

There was a discussion about the wood in the old bridge. Eric Landau said that it had rotted, but they do not know why. The BBP sued the original designer and settled. The bridge had been retrofitted in 2017 at a cost of \$3.4 million. The BBP settled with HTNB for \$1.95 million. They will spend \$6.5 million to build the new bridge. The costs, which include the demolition costs and design of the new bridge, have gone up since the original bridge was built in 2012.

ARUP said that there were no visible signs of deterioration in the wood during the retrofit. For the CAC to get the findings in the engineering report from the BBP, it will have to file a FOIL request.

Eric Landau said that there was no room to make the bridge bigger because of the ~~proposed pool in Squibb Park~~ existing adjacent building. The bridge can handle the increased capacity of the new pool.

### **Art Work**

The public art fund annual installation has gone up. There was notification in the press, and maybe in the newsletter.

### **Scaffolding**

There is scaffolding in the area of the Manhattan Bridge put up by the BBP. People have called the Department of Transportation about it. The BBP wants something (1) protective of the space below and (2) aesthetic. The scaffolding is not expected to be permanent but the BBP needs to be sure that the area is safe. DOT is conducting an analysis of bridges with subways. The Manhattan Bridge is not the only bridge with a subway where things fall down. There are three bridges in the city with subways where people walk underneath. The BBP needs to protect the space. If they move the dog run, BBP would essentially abandon that section of the park. There are rust stains on the climbing wall—the steel of the scaffolding was rusting and falling on the climbing wall, which is being addressed.

### **Fulton Ferry Landing Concessions**

The Pincus Brothers have proposed a bar/restaurant in the space where the Buzz Bar was. It will be about the same size. In addition, they want to put a facility in a vintage fireboat, which will be a temporary structure open for four months seasonally. There was a Community Board 2 hearing on March 6 on the liquor license application, followed by a CB2 Land Use Committee hearing on March 20. Then, there will be a Landmark Preservation Commission hearing for both facilities in April. ~~The Brooklyn Historical Society, Phase 2, will also be at Pier 1.~~ The facilities must close by midnight, an hour before the park closes. A secondary concern is music, but there will be language in the license saying no loud amplified music. It will be a temporary permanent space with a cover. There will be an herb garden on the roof, but it will be accessible only to

employees. There will be a presentation at the Community Board hearing but only committee members can ask a question.

## **July 4 Fireworks**

The fireworks this year will be off the South Street Seaport. There will not be any north of the Manhattan Bridge. BBP is having coordination meetings with the 84th Precinct and 1 Police Plaza. Last year the city talked about splitting the barges, but ~~Eric Landau objected because the crowd is the same whether all or half the fireworks are off the park. The location of the fireworks in the south this year has to do with Pier 17 and it's summer concert~~the Park expressed concerns about enough police presence if the barges are split.

## **Pilings – Progress of Repair**

The contractors have completed their dives to determine what is necessary. BBP has made an application to the DEC and Army Corps of Engineers, but has not received final approval. In the next few weeks, BBP will send out an RFP for construction. The contracts will go out for Piers 2 and 5, and 3 and 6. There are 13,000 piles, but many of the repairs will not involve the full length of the piles. The RFP will require that 80% of the piles be repaired by epoxy; 20% have deteriorated further and require more extensive repairs. The contracts will come up for approval at the June Board meeting. The BBP has two goals: (1) work on multiple piers simultaneously and (2) not break up the work too much. It will be a three-year process – one and a half years per pier. The way the epoxy is applied, it doesn't get into the water. The DEC is pleased because the pile stays the same size and will be structurally supported and reinforced in place and the work will be done from barges. Some piles have structurally deteriorated.

## **Pier 5 Drainage**

Spots on Pier 5 are not draining. Water is puddling near the ADA ramp. BBP will address it in the spring. On Pier 6, most of the drainage problems have been corrected.

## **Pool**

The community planning report about the pool is available on the website. The design firm did a good job with community engagement. As soon as the geotechnical borings are complete, the RFP can go out. ~~Eric Landau has no idea when the pool is going to open~~The Park is not able to confirm a pool opening date at this time, dependent on design and fundraising. The RFP has to go out and then there is money to raise. There is also a big project looming with the BQE rebuild. Squibb Park should not be impacted by the BQE except for a corner. DOT is continuing its work.

## **BQE Rebuild**

Regarding the highway over the park berms, DOT needs to do a feasibility study. The berms are structural and intended to counteract the noise. The park ties into the berms. It is necessary to study the potential impact. With the highway above, the DOT would need to put in a support structure to hold the highway up.

### **“Space Underneath the Brooklyn Bridge”**

There was a great meeting of the Design Committee of the park and Michael Van Valkenburgh, the designer. There will be a Design Committee meeting next week. There is an agreement: (1) the space will be named after one of the Roeblings; (2) the space should be designed as a big open space and should not be segmented; DOT is concerned about berms, restrictions; it wants to pull closer to Water Street and use a different kind of lighting; (3) the park needs substantive material for the flooring, not lawn. The design committee will put the concepts on paper. The challenge is the treatment of the ground because there are a lot of different surfaces in the area. Eric Landau said that this is the last section of parkland and he is excited about it.

Emily Roebling is a potential name. It is a moment to name the space after a woman. The design will not determine the use of the space. It will be a flexible space with no permanent structure. In winter, they ~~want~~ plan to have an ice skating installation. The hope is that they can find an operator who will provide free ice skating, but will charge for rentals. The size will be between Pier 17 which is 5,000 square feet and Bryant Park which is 10,000 square feet. In the summer there could be open air concerts, the Brooklyn Pop Festival, Photoville (it will have to relocate during construction).

## **Committee Reports and Discussion**

### **Operations - Aldona Vaiciunas**

All topics covered previously.

### **Membership Committee - Howard Kolins**

Committee has plans to meet before next CAC meeting.

### **Traffic Committee - Linda Derosa**

Schematic drawings, reconfiguring Furman Street further East. It was noted that the NYPD used to come. Eric said there was a new commanding officer, he will ask them to come. Someone

said they will not come unless something is going on. The 84th Precinct has a community meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

### **Other Items and Discussion**

#### **Community Board 2**

Has not determined if/who will represent their organization at the CAC

#### **Community Board 6**

Membership Chair to follow up regarding CAC representation.