

## **COMMUNITY BOARD #7**

### **PARKS COMMITTEE AND ACCESS AND ABILITY COMBINED MEETING MINUTES**

**December 1, 2021**

**Meeting open - 6:05 pm**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Parks Department**

**Economic Development Corporation**

**Steiner Studios**

**Agenda:**

- **Presentation from Steiner Studios' Playground, Bush Terminal Piers Park's Overall Proposed Site Plan**

### **Steiner Studios**

- **Doug Steiner, Chairman, Steiner Studios**
- **Gullivar Shepard - Designer**
  - **Mr. Steiner started by presenting his slide presentation, titled "Bush Terminal Piers Park CB7 Design Update Review PDC Submission."**
    - **Community Benefits of a Completed Bush Terminal Piers Park**
      - **Construct New Playground**
      - **Improve Accessibility**
      - **Extensive Picnic Area**
      - **Increased Landscaping**
      - **Extend Pedestrian and Bike Path**
      - **Expand Promenade and Rain Garden**
      - **Improved South Entrance**
      - **Annual Park Programming Commitment**
      - **Construct approx. 20 Parking Spaces**
  - **Phase 2 – Proposed Plan Presented by Gullivan Shepard - Designer**
    - **Project to start next year and be completed in 36 months after start date.**
    - **Rain Garden**
    - **More walkways**
    - **More places to sit in the picnic area conceived with maximum opportunities for accessible tables.**
    - **Maintenance and cleaning to be handle by the Parks Department.**
    - **Promenade Expansion Plan**
      - **Aligning the bike trail with the promenade seats and lighting.**
      - **Planting more shade trees.**
    - **Picnic Area Section**
      - **Concern about foundations**
      - **Change the grade to not disturb the landfill cap.**

- **What was learned about the site by Steiner Studio and Co.**
    - **Park topography is the result of capping fill on site**
    - **The hilltop & the views that it affords re not accessible experiences**
    - **The play area requires some flat areas to be considered accessible.**
  - **The community feedback resulted in the playground “Play Hill”:**
    - **Features inclusive and accessible play equipment**
    - **Integrated two ADA walkways into the existing hilltop mounds**
    - **Preserves the existing trees.**
    - **Provides shade for the pathway, lawns and play area.**
    - **Meets NYC Parks operational requirements and standards.**
- **Play Hill**
  - **Respect the Existing Topography**
    - **Maintain the relationship of the lawn and the main path.**
    - **Preserve the existing Honey Locust grove and hilltop mounds**
    - **Address poor drainage and failing lawn areas**
  - **Making the Hilltop Accessible**
    - **Recognize that the hilltop is the central feature of the park**
    - **Integrate two accessible walkways into the existing topography.**
    - **Connect the hilltop play area to the existing comfort station.**
  - **Celebrate the Hilltop Views.**
    - **Activate the hilltop with the new ADA-accessible play area**
    - **Arrange play equipment access and seating to maintain views.**
    - **Provide canopy trees to shade pathways, lawns and the play area.**
  - **Two Play Areas**
    - **Ages 2-5**
    - **Ages 5-12**
    - **Safety Surface Tiles**
    - **ADA accessibility into the play area**
  - **Playground Equipment**
    - **Most pieces have sensory walls.**
    - **ADA Ramp Sensory Panels**
    - **Accessible for children with sensory, vision and mobility disabilities.**
    - **Play panels alongside of ramp for safety**
    - **ADA water fountain**
    - **Companion seating next to the area with the play equipment**
    - **Top of the line equipment, which is easy to replace when need.**
    - **Maintenance of the equipment will be the responsibility of the Parks Department.**

- **South Entrance of Park**
  - **Current entrance will remain open while new one is being built.**
  - **Possible Citi Bike docking**
  - **Bike Parking**
  - **Approximately 20 public parking spots.**
  - **If someday, Port Authority open the flow bridge to receive cargo, Steiner would have to come up with a new safe design for access to the south entrance of the park.**
- **Resolution - Parks Committee (vote)**
  - **That EDC hands over the infrastructure and operation management of Bush Terminal Piers Park to the Parks Department.**
  - **Passed by 5-0 vote, send to entire CB7 Board for vote.**
- **Bush Terminal Piers Park Project Update by EDC**
  - **Light Poles – 8 out of 10 completed. Two need additional work due to the foundation and should be completed by years' end.**
  - **Sinkhole – EDC has approval to use their own funds to fix sink hole. The material should be arriving sometime in December; work to start in January. It will take 5-6 months to complete the project.**
  - **A dog run was recently opened at the parade ground that's called the Kensington dog run.**
- **Letter of Support – Steiner Studios (vote)**
  - **Steiner Studios is looking for a letter of support from Community Board 7 pertaining to the submittal of their plan and additional language of the memorial to PVC.**
  - **Parks Committee voted 3-0 in favor**
  - **Access and Ability Committee does not pass, two voted yes and two voted present.**

➤ **There was a presentation, question and answer session. (refer to YouTube recording)**

**8:25pm – Meeting adjourned**

*Victor Swinton*

**Victor Swinton  
Chair Parks Committee**

**Cindy VandenBosch  
Chair Access and Ability Committee**