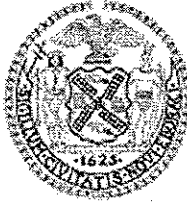


Jo Hamilton, Chair
Bo Riccobono, First Vice Chair
Sheelah Feinberg, Second Vice Chair
Bob Gormley, District Manager



Amanda Kahn Fried, Treasurer
Susan Kent, Secretary
Elaine Young, Assistant Secretary

COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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July 30, 2009

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st St.
New York, New York 10023

Robert Redmond,
Director of Capital Budget
NYC Department of Parks
Arsenal West, 24 61st St.
New York, New York 10023

Alicia D. Hurley, Ph.D.
Associate Vice-President
Government and Community Affairs
University Relations and Public Affairs
70 Washington Square South, Room 1107
New York, New York 10012-1019

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Castro and Mr. Redmond and Associate Vice President Hurley:

At its Full Board meeting on July 23, 2009, CB#2-Man., adopted the following resolution:

2. A resolution supporting the proposal for public open space to be built above the NYU Co-generation Plant of Mercer Street.

Whereas New York University will soon complete construction of a Co-generation plant, serving numerous NYU buildings, on property belonging to the New York City Department of Transportation, located on the west side of Mercer Street between West 3rd Street and West 4th Street; and

Whereas this plan was created with the participation of a neighborhood task force including members of the nearby community, members of Community Board 2; and representatives of local elected officials; and

Whereas members of the task force attended this public hearing and spoke very favorably of the process and the outcome; and

Whereas the proposal does not contradict any of the planning principles approved in the document called "A Roadmap to a New York University Campus Plan" and positively conforms to principals in that document including improving the quality of open space, implementing input from the community in the design process, reaching out early and often for community consultation, and committing to a community-oriented public process; and

Whereas the previous use of the space was fenced in and provided very little public use or access but did include healthy and mature trees that had to be cut down to allow construction of the Co-generation plant; and

Whereas the space will include trees that will mature and grow to substantial height; and

Whereas the space will be an open public space with benches and planting areas; and

Whereas the entire space will be wheelchair accessible;

Whereas the New York City Parks Department has made a commitment to reduce the use of wood from tropical rain forest trees, including those harvested in an approved way such as the wood proposed for the pavings and benches of this park;

Therefore it is resolved that CB-2 praises the process and endorses the plan; and

It is further resolved that CB-2 expresses its appreciation to the members of the task force who devoted many hours to working with NYU and its consultants to develop this plan; and

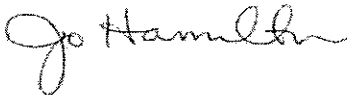
It is further resolved that CB-2 considers the process for this project to be a model for open community involvement in development of public open space that should be emulated by the NYC MTA at a similar underground project for installation of emergency subway fans at Mulry Square; and

It is further resolved that CB-2 asks NYU and its consultants to further review the use of tropical hard woods and to consult with the New York City Parks Department in this regard.

Vote: Unanimous, with 33 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Parks, and Recreation & Open Space Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Scott Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Alan Jay Gerson, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Lolita Jackson, Commissioner, CAU
Sandy Myers, Community Board Liaison, MBPO
Gary Parker, Director of Government and Community Affairs, NYU