

ESCR CAG Meeting -- October 24, 2024
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Wendy Brawer Christine Datz Romero Dianne Lake Michael Marino Robin Schatall Susan Steinberg

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

Work with Us Events & Hiring Compliance

Stephen Anderson, Bui Studios

1. Work With Us Events
 - a. DDC Manhattan Construction Career & Training Resource Fair - December 4th
 - i. Session 1: 10 am – 12 pm
 - ii. Session 2: 1 pm – 3 pm
 - iii. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3kpu7zhx>
 - b. ESCR Virtual Information Session - December 10th
 - i. 3:30 pm – 5 :00 pm
 - ii. Learn about Learn about construction training programs and cost-free resources to get needed credentials and experience
 - iii. Registration information to be provided soon:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/contact/workwith-us.page>
2. Hiring Compliance – as of August 2024
 - a. ESCR Current Staff
 - i. Total PMCM Staff: 230
 1. Project Area 1 (PA1) New Hires: 74
 2. Project Area 2 (PA2) New Hires: 27
 3. Total New Hires: 101
 4. Staff from MWBE Subs: 40.0% (92 of 230)
 5. Total Minority: 27.8% (64 of 230)
 6. Males: 74.3% (171 of 230)
 7. Females: 24.3% (56 of 230)*
 - ii. Total General Contractors' Staff: 2,227
 1. Project Area 1 (PA1)
 - a. GC, Staff Total: 1,537
 - b. General Contractor for PA1, IPC Resiliency Partners
 - c. Existing Staff: 54.9% (844 of 1,537)
 - d. New Hires: 44.6% (693 of 1,537)
 - e. New Hires from MWBEs: 5.8% (88 of 1,537)
 - f. Total Minority: 37.5% (560 of 1,537)
 - g. Males: 97.5% (1,500 of 1,537)

- h. Females: 2.3% (33 of 1,537)
 - 2. Project Area 2 (PA2)
 - a. GC, Staff Total: 690
 - b. General Contractor for PA2, Perfetto Contracting Co.
 - c. Existing Staff: 64.6% (446 of 690)
 - d. New Hires: 37.3% (244 of 690)
 - e. New Hires from MWBEs: 4.9% (34 of 690)
 - f. Total Minority: 47.7% (333 of 690)
 - g. Males: 96.9% (671 of 690)
 - h. Females: 2.8% (19 of 690)
- b. Staff by residency (*see slide 9 for a matrix that breaks this down by borough/adjacent states and by existing/new/union/Sandy hires.*)
- c. MWBE Goals and Utilization - Project Area 1 and 2 (PA1 and PA2)
 - i. HNTB-LiRo, PMCM PA1: 61% Progress towards goal | 29% Goal
PA2: 87% Progress towards goal | 31% Goal
 - ii. IPC, GC PA1: 36% Progress towards goal | 16% Goal
 - iii. Perfetto, GC PA2: 17% Exceeding goal | 12% Goal
- d. Section 3 Hires - PA1 and PA2
 - i. HNTB-LiRo, PMCM 6 New hires | Total PA1 and PA2
 - ii. IPC, GC PA1: 10 new hires
 - iii. Perfetto, GC PA2: 3 new hires
- e. Strategy and good faith efforts to meet goals
 - i. Ongoing efforts
 - 1. GC's continued outreach to Labor Unions to assign local individuals to the ESCR project
 - 2. Continued support from DDC ODIR in collaboration with various city agencies
 - 3. Quarterly Information Sessions (virtual & in-person)
 - 4. Email outreach, Community outreach / tabling with Workforce1 mobile unit, continued website updates with resources and job postings as they become available
 - ii. City and local partners
 - 1. NYC Dept. of Small Business Services - Workforce 1
 - 2. Henry Street Settlement
 - 3. Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
 - 4. Lower East Side Employment Network (LESEN)
 - 5. NYCHA Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES)
 - 6. ESCR Community Advisory Group
 - 7. Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
 - 8. Labor Unions
- f. M/WBE | Section 3 | Local Hiring Goals (*see slide 12*)
 - i. Here's more information on our Work With Us webpage:
https://www.nyc.gov/assets/escr/downloads/pdf/WWU_MWBE-Hiring_July22.pdf

DDC Presentation of Updates

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

3. Corlears Hook Park Halloween trick-or-treating on Sunday, November 3, 2024
4. Construction Progress Update & Overview of Contracts (*see slide 16*)
 - a. The most exciting items that we have to present on: installation of Corlears Hook pedestrian bridge and the reopening of Murphy Brothers Playground. There are still some punchwork items in PA 2, but the majority of the area is open.
 - b. In PA1, there's ongoing work in the southern portion and by E. 10th Street for the utility work happening there.
 - c. PC – Utility relocation and sewer installation happening at almost all the locations
5. PA1 Construction Update (*see slide 18*)
 - a. Esplanade reconstruction coming along
 - b. Ballfields 1 and 2 and the Delancey Street bridge are open
 - c. Ongoing groundwork in ballfields 3, 4, and 5 with floodwall installation, installation of rigid inclusions, and wick drains
 - d. Floodwall operations at Montgomery Street
 - e. Corlears Hook bridge installed
 - f. Work at E. 10th Street to prepare for microtunneling
6. Construction Photos
 - a. Corlears Hook bridge installation was a nice community experience to witness (*see slides 19, 20*). There's still the E. 10th Street pedestrian bridge to be installed, so feel free to come out overnight and watch it be installed; we'll let you know in advance when it's happening.
 - b. Pipe pile driving near Ballfield 5 (*see slide 21*)
 - c. Partial fill esplanade near tennis area (*see slide 21*)
 - d. Basketball court construction (*see slide 22*)
 - e. Horticultural soil at multiuse turf (*see slide 22*)
 - f. Amphitheater seating installation (*see slide 22*)
 - g. Esplanade seating foundation installation (*see slide 22*)
7. What We've Heard
 - a. Planting to begin next week
 - b. E. 10th Street – met with NYCHA and elected officials; ongoing improvements to sidewalks and detour areas during construction
 - c. Microtunneling at E. 10th Street
 - i. Receiving pit still being shaped
 - ii. Tunneling equipment to arrive next week
 - iii. Will take 3-4 weeks to prepare equipment before tunneling begins
 - d. E. Houston Street – ongoing discussions with our traffic folks around detour signage, improving site aesthetics along the pedestrian ramp
 - e. Future amenity openings and park closures – in progress; we know everyone is looking forward to this timetable
 - f. Parks (*Luc Alicea, NYC Department of Parks; see slide 24*)
 - i. Parks – I'm the Parks representative, but I also wanted to let everyone know that I'm the new District 3 manager, replacing Jamil Phillips. I'll still be

focused on ESCR, but I also look forward to helping everybody with broader issues for parks in general, beyond ESCR.

- ii. Ballfields 1 & 2 dugout shade – Netting trial underway; it may not be permanent, but we wanted to take some action. If it goes well, we can install it at other dugouts and in other areas where the traditional shade sail doesn't work well when it rains (they get too heavy, making installation expensive). Let us know if this is an acceptable answer to providing shade, and we can look at expanding it for next summer. I'll also add that it's not done when the construction is done. There's room to improve things after the park is handed over.
- iii. Delancey Street bridge and bike/shared use strategy – Until the bike lane is attached to the bridge, there will not be any bike use permitted. Once the broader bike lane setup exists going from East River Park along the southern perimeter of Manhattan then it will be a shared use path. We're going to look into how to minimize the safety concerns about pedestrian-biker conflicts.

Michael: I have a question about permitting for the fields, which I know keeps coming up, but there's confusion about it. Is the priority for neighborhood youth leagues/neighborhood leagues in general?

Luc: The priority for all of Parks' ball fields is youth nonprofit and then nonprofit in general. We don't have a built-in priority for local leagues, but if there's a specific concern then please let me know, and we will deconflict with our permitting division. We don't have a systematic way of prioritizing local leagues. The justification is to ensure access for communities who don't have the same number of fields.

Michael: A few weeks ago, there was a lacrosse game at the field and an event at Jackson Park, and someone I spoke to at Jackson Park was bemoaning the fact that their local little league didn't get permits for these fields, yet there was a lacrosse game going out with people from outside the neighborhood. I don't know what their organization is, but if I see that person again, I'll ask them and let you know.

Luc: Please let me know the specifics. Some leagues don't know how to do the permitting process and what the timeline is.

Michael: Desiree, I'm curious about the timing of bridge installation. I know that the FDR was closed overnight, but I heard speculation that it was closed earlier than 11 pm, and the bridge was moved in rather early, before midnight. Is that true?

Desiree: I can look into that for you.

Robin: I wanted to follow up on what Michael said. I thought these ballfields were going to be prioritized for local groups, especially now during construction. I've noticed outside groups in the park This has been a longstanding priority; maybe we need to write a letter about this as a CAG. Also, thanks for the shade; I'll go test it out.

Luc: Overall, we're enabling community leagues to play anywhere in the city. Again, I just need the specifics about which local nonprofit league is having issues. I haven't heard of any leagues being deprioritized.

Robin: Community outreach to let local groups know that these fields are now available is needed; they should be contacted by Parks. We could share that list with you, so you could say, "These fields are open; we want to make sure you get your permits before we permit anybody else." I'm happy to help with that.

Luc: The permitting office within our recreation division did proactively reach out, but it's possible that something fell through the cracks, so I'd love to hear about anyone who is not being prioritized, and we can get to the bottom of it. We can make sure that if it's not rectified for this season, it will be for the next.

Wendy: I'm excited to see the trees coming in. Is there irrigation for them?

Luc: Yes.

Wendy: Is it a drip system?

Desiree: Yes, it's a whole system, and each tree gets a designated drip, and the beds get more of it and an overall watering system. I could look up the exact response we provided previously and send that over.

Wendy: I thought the trees weren't going to get planted until it cooled off, and it hasn't really done so. Next week's forecast is going to also be pretty warm. Is that an issue, or is more about a timeline?

Desiree: Parks has planting periods, and we need to plant within those times; again, they're scheduled for next week.

Wendy: I brought a temperature gun to Stuy Cove Park and found that the cool spaces there are being created by fast-growing native grasses; can we do some of that here in addition to the test netting trial?

Luc: The preferred way to provide shade is through trees or other plants, but I wanted to do something to address the issue before the trees came in. We obviously can't put trees in some of these fields. Let's see exactly how the horticultural plan lays out, but we'll work with everyone to make modifications to whatever is planted to ensure that it makes sense years down the road. We're going to rely on the community to take care of these plant beds, so we'll look to everyone on this call and in the community to figure out what we're planting long term.

Wendy: Some of these fast-growing grasses can provide the first season whereas the trees are going to take a while. Don't just think long term.

[From the chat: luc.alicea@parks.nyc.gov Please let me know if there is any local league that is not getting play time and I will aggressively find out what went wrong. Thank you!]

8. PA1 | Shared Use path within East River Park (see slide 25)
 - a. Asphalt bike lane merges into a shared use path at ballfields 1 & 2
9. PA2 Construction Update
 - a. Murphy Brothers Playground open (see slide 27) – plantings to happen in early November
10. PA2 | Ribbon cutting & floodgate installation (see slide 28)

11. PA2 AQM | September update
 - a. PA2 AQM monitoring locations (*see slide 30*)
 - b. A blip on 9/12 due to construction activities (*see slide 31*)
12. PC | Construction Update (*see slide 32*)
13. PC | Water Street work (*see slide 34*)
 - a. Ongoing, temporary closure of sidewalk on south side of Water Street, near 645 Water Street
 - i. Expected closure for 2-3 weeks
 - ii. Contractor opened a portion of Water Street to provide accessible pedestrian detour
 - iii. Work is necessary to access utilities
 - b. Water Street on track to reopen mid-November when sidewalk work is complete, to be followed by Gouverneur Slip E.
14. PC | Construction photo: ConEd manhole and duct installation near Corlears Hook Park (*see slide 35*)
15. PC | Construction photos: Gas main installation at Columbia Street, test pile on Delancey Street, steam main installation at E. 18th Street, and transformer vault removal at Water Street (*see slide 36*)

Q & A

Wendy: On slide 25, how wide is this shared use path?

Desiree: I'm not sure; we will find out.

Wendy: I think the purple part is 12 feet which is the minimum for two-way bike lanes. I'm concerned about the shared use path; there are so many new riders in the park and dogs and strollers. For comparison, the dedicated bike path at Stuy Cove is 16 feet wide. Is there a plan to add bike lanes on the west side of the FDR?

Desiree: Not that I'm aware of and not as part of this program.

Wendy: Are bikes going to be allowed elsewhere in the park or only on the blue and purple lines (on slide 25)?

Desiree: These are designated areas for bikes. I think now that bikes use all areas of the park.

Luc: The rule will be that they'll have to dismount if they want to go to, say, the esplanade. Enforcement is a whole other beast, but that's what our policy would be.

Wendy: From what I understand, with BMCR there's no more space for bikes under the covered area; they're going to be in the street with the cars, and here we're not allowed to go close to the water. That's a real loss and will diminish means for recreation and transportation for many people.

Dianne: What kind of vehicles do we expect to be coming in and out of that Parks M & O (Maintenance and Operations) area?

Luc: The largest one would be a packer. We're cognizant that the shared use path will also have vehicles added to the mix; we need to look at it and figure out how exactly we're servicing East River Park. Is there a time frame that makes the most sense to do

the packer route, for example, to minimize disruption? I won't pretend that it won't, and we owe an answer to you guys once the whole park is open and the M & O facility is up.

Dianne: I'm sure you realize that regardless of the policy, bicyclists will still use the entire park including the esplanade. Is the M & O area not going to open until the project is completely finished?

Luc: We're heavily advocating with DDC to prioritize that with the release of the rest of the property. I can't speak to exactly when it will be done, but we're very cognizant of the need to maintain the park as soon as it's open to the public. We're able to maintain fields 1 & 2 right now, but if more space were to open, we would want the M & O's opening to be in conjunction with those openings.

Also, there's another charge facility that's much closer to Pier 42 – as opposed to going to the park's M & O.

Christine: Congratulations, Luc. We're looking forward to working with you. I'm an avid bike rider but also feel that electric vehicles that zip through parks are a whole other beast. Does Parks have a policy of restricting access by motorized scooters and bicyclists in the park? I'd love to advocate for a working group to really think about how to mitigate the impacts of maintenance vehicles. We could come up with a lot of creative ideas. Maybe we don't need packers to go throughout the whole park which now has narrower roads; even in the old park it was intimidating for people to be next to a packer. Also, how will concessions be handled? What kind of access will those providers have? This is a big topic, and maybe we should start thinking about it.

Luc: I 100% agree, and I know that electric vehicle riders break the rules. I suspect the e-bike policy will be something like pedal-assist is OK, but I'll get you an exact answer. However, there's a deeper question about enforcement and design features we can implement to minimize the number of bikers who go off of the path. For example, unlike the Delancey Street bridge, the Corlears Hook bridge has elevated sidewalks on the perimeter for pedestrians and an area that is for the bikes. In terms of the working group, that sounds like a great idea. I think we can deconflict and minimize impact between concessions and compost vehicles. So, Christine, we'll reach out about setting up a working group, especially before the next round of openings which will take months for us to figure out.

Robin: I don't understand why bikes aren't currently allowed on the Delancey Street bridge, and I'm concerned about the urbanization of the park with a logjam of bicycles and vehicles. I remember the lawn being open before and there being places to hide from all the foot traffic. When will the plantings on the lawn be done so people feel like they're actually sitting in a park and not a barren square?

Luc: It's not highlighted on this map (slide 25), but vehicles would be using the path that goes toward the Parks M & O unless there's a maintenance reason why they have to access the rest of the park. Right now, the shared use path was pushed through the community board, so I wouldn't say we're going to look at not having bikes on there, but I would say that nothing is set in stone forever. If in the long term it's a problem to have Delancey Street bridge as a shared use path, then we should explore that through the community board. I know that other people advocated for a shared path. Regarding the lawn area, it's kind of the same deal: if it feels barren, we'll push to have additional planting. This won't be the condition forever; this will be how the park is turned over, and then we'll talk to you guys and work on what is the next step.

Robin: Thank you. I didn't understand why you won't be letting bikes on the Delancey Street bridge now (before the park is done).

Luc: If there's a strong community outpouring to have bikes on the bridge just going to ballfields 1 and 2, we would reevaluate our stance, but right now we're very concerned about safety until it's tied into the rest of the bike lane framework.

Wendy: Which bridges would rescue vehicles for people who jump off the bridge be using?

Luc: Corlears Hook Park bridge; the Delancey Street bridge is not coded for vehicles, beyond Parks Dept. gators (utility vehicles).

Paula: Thanks Desiree, Luc, and Stephen for presenting

Desiree: And happy 50th meeting to the CAG. Thank you for all your questions and comments and everything you've given to the construction portion of this project. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Dianne: Thank you, Desiree. You've been very helpful to us.

Presentation: Bureau of Coastal Resiliency and Deployment of ESCR Resilience Assets (i.e., the floodgates)

Laurian Farrell, DEP Deputy Commissioner for Coastal Resilience

I'm going to talk about two things: 1) Operations and maintenance plan for ESCR; and 2) the Bureau of Coastal Resilience itself.

1. Bureau of Coastal Resilience
 - a. Established as part of PlaNYC to lead and coordinate the planning, implementation and operation of the city's coastal resilience infrastructure
 - b. Building back infrastructure that was damaged during Sandy
 - c. Planning the city's coastal resilience assets
 - d. Three teams:
 - i. Strategic planning, including community engagement
 - ii. Engineering, including compliance management
 - iii. Operations, including crews out in the field managing and testing assets
2. Deployment of ESCR resilience assets for severe weather: four phases
 - a. Upon notification
 - i. Coordination with NYCEM and affected agencies as early as possible
 - ii. Recommendation is made to Mayor's Office to active ESCR ERP
 - iii. Pre-storm inspections conducted of all assets; work crews mobilized
 - b. E-48 – Initial closures
 - i. Floodgates not impeding roadway are closed (2 to 6 hours per gate¹)
 - ii. FDR remains open to allow for emergency vehicles and evacuees
 - c. E-24 – Roadway closures
 - i. FDR is closed to all vehicular traffic from Battery Park to E. 34th Street
 - ii. Gates impeding vehicular traffic on FDR are shut and sealed
 - d. E-8 - Final asset deployment

¹ Note: Closure time can be compressed if the number of field crews is increased or if 24/7 operation is in place

- i. Deadline to close all gates, all assets must be deployed and work crews brought to safety
 - ii. Gate performance is monitored from safe location
- 3. NYCEM notifications
 - a. Notify NYC – the city’s official emergency alert program with over 1.2M subscribers providing information in 14 languages
 - b. Partnerships and grassroots support
 - i. Working with elected officials, Community Boards, and a broad network of civic groups, businesses, and nonprofits to share critical information through trusted localized channels responsive to community needs
 - ii. Strengthening Communities program training 40 community organizations to share emergency alerts and preparedness information in multiple languages and accessible formats
 - iii. Mobilizing 700+ CERT volunteers to reach vulnerable populations (e.g., immigrants, older adults, people with disabilities)
 - c. Inclusivity for disabilities and functional needs
 - i. Our advance warning system reaches over 6K subscribers representing 2,300 + organizations, ensuring vital information is shared with individuals who have disabilities or access and functional needs
 - ii. CorpNet program engages 750 private sector partners to support coordinated preparedness and communication efforts
 - d. Multi-language and digital outreach
 - i. Vital information is amplified via social media platforms, including a new public WhatsApp group, media outlets, and through federal, state, and municipal agency communications
 - e. Wireless emergency alerts (WEA)
 - i. NCYEM can send WEA messages to every cellphone in a designated geographic area during life-threatening events
- 4. Routine maintenance
 - a. Critical to ensuring the flood protection system performs reliably and maximizing the project’s useful life
 - i. It will be a disruption and something the community is not yet used to, so it will be useful to talk to the CAG about these new activities that will be taking place. We would like to hear from you how best to do them with the least disruption.
 - ii. Street team will be deployed for the first several years to answer questions.
 - b. Routine maintenance of the gates crossing the FDR will occur at night to minimize traffic disruptions
 - c. Maintenance schedule:
 - i. Quarterly – January, April, July, October
 - ii. Annual inspection and maintenance – each April – prior to hurricane season
 - iii. Five-year engineering inspection and assessment – in April, every 5 years

Thank you for having me present today; we look forward to continuing to work with the CAG and other groups in order to do this work correctly. The goal is to keep everyone safe, and these are

new assets that we're really excited about in NYC. We will be learning more about them in the next two years and we'll be adjusting as needed to be ready for the 2027 hurricane season.

Q & A

Wendy: Thank you for the presentation. Is there coordination with NYCHA, which also has deployable gates just adjacent to the park?

Laurian: We're not coordinating with them today on the deployment of their protection, but we are coordinating on the emergency management response. During a storm, what happens in the city as a whole will be coordinated. We'll be doing full-scale exercises on clear weather days to train ourselves and understand the interactions of the two systems; we'll also do desktop exercises. NYCHA has been involved with our inter-agency conversations, but we don't have the plan in place yet about how we're going to interact.

Wendy: ESCR commitment #19 is about preparedness workshops for the community, and I don't think there have been any yet. Are any planned?

Laurian: That's something I would love to do when we get the bureau team in place. The goal is to have a community engagement team that can do that sort of work and share out information that is not just about the technical aspects of the project but about how to keep safe during a storm event. We should be prepared to talk about what the system can do but also about its limitations. I want to make people prepared, just in case some of the water does come over that wall.

Note: NYCEM presented at the September 2024 CAG and will give a workshop to anyone who requests one.

Wendy: I think it should be a priority to help people understand what their role is.

Laurian: I appreciate that comment. I understand that sometimes what we (the agency) are thinking may not be the same that the community is thinking.

Dianne: We have many community-based organizations here. I would encourage you to find out more about those groups and work with them because they can get the word out. Strong partnerships with these groups will allow you to learn about what people are actually thinking. Also, since before ESCR went into construction there have been extreme rainfall events – but there hasn't been a storm surge since Sandy. I would also encourage you to think about the relationship between these extreme rainfall events and the closures you may need to make some day so that people can actually evacuate. At the moment, there's more concern among waterfront residents about rainfall than storm surge. There's a lot of concern about flooding and their ability to evacuate safely if necessary.

Laurian: Point taken. We know that we have to plan for both of those; most people don't care if the water is coming from the sea or the sky; flooding is flooding. The work the bureau is doing is preparing for both of those things, but on the engineering side we do need to plan for these things together, and our sister bureau is that of water and sewer operations. We've been talking about the entire drainage plan for lower Manhattan and how those two systems interact. When it comes time for operation of these gates, how do we decide when to open and close them? We have a procedure for closing for storm surge; you typically don't get a huge rainfall and a storm surge at the same time. However, we need to plan for the worst-case scenario. The parallel conveyance system deals with rainfall and stormwater. We have some more work to do with regard to the

interaction of the two systems and the two types of flooding occurring simultaneously, but it's top of mind for us.

CAG-Only

Michael: Corlears Bridge is the only one that's rated for large vehicles which is why it's being installed with a swing gate to stop anyone from driving over it.

Dianne: I don't think the intended traffic flow in the park is clear at this point. I like the idea of a working group, and I'm glad that Luc wants to work with us. It seems like the shared use path in the back side of the park near the FDR has a lot of uses. Who wouldn't want to ride along the esplanade? I think there's going to be a lot of different types of traffic, including people bringing in picnic supplies, something for an event, or the suppliers for the concessions. We should stay on top of that; it's potentially very messy.

Robin: I'm also concerned about traffic flow and people sitting on that lawn without trees or bushes surrounding them and having bikers and pedestrians passing them constantly. Also, why can't we ask Parks during construction to prioritize local groups to use those fields? Why should they feel that it has to be open for everyone given the reduced number of fields?

Michael: We've asked for that multiple times.

Robin: Given that we're in construction can we ask them to hold off on permitting anybody outside of the community?

Michael: They give out permits so far in advance that I think the deed is done at this point. I would imagine the fields are totally permitted by now. I did reach out to the folks from Andrew Jackson playground to see if they know who the woman was that I was speaking to, and they're already gotten back to me that they're going to reach out to her, so hopefully I'll get that information, and I'll share it with Paula to share with the rest of the CAG.

Robin: They could revoke those permits if they really wanted to. There were some guys playing soccer in the park from all over the city. I'm just concerned that there are groups in our community who don't know that those fields are open.

Michael: I think they know, but they're so disenchanted from never getting the fields that they've given up trying.

Wendy: There used to be someone on the CAG working on this.

Dianne: Tony Rivera from Our Lady of Sorrows Little League has been coming to the CAG some of the time and also working directly with Parks at other times, so I imagine those teams feel decently supported by the permitting process, but there may be other local organizations with less reach or that aren't as large that, as Michael said, have given up trying.

Wendy: Maybe Our Lady of Sorrows has a mailing list with some of those smaller groups, and they could be told that there's a new process. It seems like there is a network that can help people connect to get some of those spots. Regardless, it's really tough. There's not enough space for everybody.

Christine: Maybe we can reach out to Tony and find out how he feels about it and if he'd be willing to do some outreach.

Robin: Outreach is one thing, but I'm talking about policy: during construction, these fields should only be open to people in certain zip codes. I don't know if we have that kind of power with Parks, but that's what I would like to see happen.

Christine: If a local group doesn't want a certain slot, would it be ok for teams from outside of those zip codes to get a permit?

Robin: Once we've exhausted all the local teams. I'm happy to talk to anyone here about who I should talk to offline about this. I'm hearing rumors that there will be a conservancy or a "friends of" group.

Michael: Paula, can we ask them how long out it is already booked for and to whom? Can we get a list of those groups?

Paula: I can reach out to Luc.

Christine: Could we also ask for a list of all who had permits when we had 8 fields?

Robin: Can we request someone from Parks to be a designated liaison for the park so we can have someone to look out for the community as the park opens?

Christine: Luc is the manager for all of District 3, not for East River Park.

Dianne: Working with Luc might be a good way to do that because if we just advocate for one park, there will be pressures in areas nearby to get the use of those parks. If we can look at this across the district and work with him, we might be able to make a better case for prioritizing local teams in those fields.

Michael: What is Luc's role now? This is the most active he's been in one of our meetings. In addition to being the district manager, is he also the liaison to the CAG for Parks? Paula, could you ask him that?

Dianne: I believe he's keeping his resiliency role with the CAG

Christine: He's staying as a rep. from Parks for ESCR, and I think this is positive because we requested that forever. And now that he's district manager, it gives him even more of an investment in East River Park.

Robin: Could we request a meeting with the Manhattan Parks Commissioner? And maybe with the recreation supervisor for Manhattan and the permitting person to really talk this through?

Dianne: I think we should start with Luc and present him with some more concrete concerns, including if Michael is about to find out who asked that question. I think talking to Tony is a good idea: What's the history? What can he point to? Was there a time when he was denied a permit because a soccer field from uptown had it? Fields 6, 7, and 8 are still open in the northern end of the park. I see that the New York Lions, a local football organization, is getting priority for the infield of the track. I think there are efforts to make permitting more equitable that we could help along by providing specifics if we can figure them out.

Paula: I can reach out to Tony about this.

Michael: Switching topics, I think we should all make an effort to get out to the field and check out the sun shade, and Paula could ask CAG members who aren't here right now to do the same. I think that in his new district manager role, Luc is trying to impress. He literally fixed something in Corlears in 24 hours that we've been asking to get done for months.

Wendy: Christine, has there been an update on your situation that we haven't heard about?

Christine: Not really; it's sort of mystifying. We haven't had any follow up from when Julie Freeman of OMB came to the CAG and said they were doing an analysis. I was at the ribbon cutting last week, and I talked to Jeff from DDC, and they want to start the process again of talking about the design for the compost yard which obviously now needs to accommodate this building. I don't understand why DDC hasn't moved forward

with making the case for why this building is being demolished. We just don't hear anything about that. I don't know if we should ask why this analysis isn't forthcoming, but we're definitely planning for creating a new space.

Robin: Should we request a tour of the amphitheater as it's being built? There have been some specific requests about how the seating should go in.

Christine: They offered tours that were sold out very fast for Open House NY.

Paula: I can ask them about this.

Wendy: I found it interesting to hear that they're working on signage on Houston Street. I can't believe it took them this long to realize that there's an issue there.

Michael: I was talking to Desiree about when the Corlears Hook Bridge would open, and I thought it was fall 2025, but she told me spring of 2025.

Christine: Who wants to be on the working group about traffic flow and make some recommendations?

Wendy, Robin

Wendy: I'm concerned that it's a tiny space for two cars right on the bike path. The other thing is that on the west side the park slopes down to the FDR, so you're not even going to see the river when you're over there which is very unfair. I'd like to be on that working group.

Robin: Me too; we're cut off from the river.

Christine: I just learned that Pier 35 has public charging stations.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:58 pm