



The City of New York
Borough of Queens



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Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

DEP/Sanitation Committee Meeting
Park Drive East Pump Station Reconstruction

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: [Virtual](#) Via [WebEx](#)

Kevin Forrestal, *DEP/Sanitation Committee Chair*
Board Members: Douglas Sherman.

Also, in attendance: **Karen Ellis, Director of Community Affairs – DEP**
Tommy Lin, Queens Borough Director
Liz Claassen – Goshow Architects – DEP
Alicia West, Director of Public Design Outreach – DEP
Tania Quezada, Consulting Team – DEP
Jonathan Landsman – NYC Parks
Matthew Osit, Portfolio Manager – DEP
Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8, District Manager
Jatna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member

DEP/Sanitation Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal called this meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. This was followed by self-introductions of all Board Members, staff and others present.

Purpose:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposes to reconstruct the Park Drive East Pump Station, which is largely below ground with the exception of an electrical cabinet. The proposed reconstruction project will upgrade the entire pump station, establish redundancy for all mechanical and electrical equipment, and raise all critical electrical equipment above the floodplain to ensure resiliency and reliability. The anticipated scheduled for construction is October 2023 to April 2026 with the most active period of construction between December 2024 and June 2025.

Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal asked Ms. West to begin her presentation

Alicia West, Director of Public Design Outreach – Ms. West spoke about the Park Drive East Pump Station reconstruction project. Before they file officially with the Public Design Commission for their approval, they will present to the CB tonight. These are some of the main highlights from the presentation:

- DEP’s mission is to enrich the environment and protect public health for all New Yorkers by providing high quality drinking water, managing and wastewater and stormwater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution.
- On the wastewater side, DEP treats over a billion gallons of sewage every day at their 14 waste-water resource recover facilities, and that wastewater is conveyed to treatment by 96 pump stations across the city.

- The Park Drive East Pump station was originally constructed in the 1930s and it hasn't been substantially upgraded since the 1980s. They completed some interim electric improvements within the last 10 years. This project is going to improve the entire facility, making sure that they have reliability and backup for all their mechanical and electrical equipment and raising all that critical electrical equipment above the floodplain to make sure that the pump station continues to serve the community, even in stormy weather.
- This pump station pumps up to 15 million gallons of wastewater a day. That's water that goes down the toilets, showers, washing machines, as well as rainwater collected on the streets. This is routed to the Tallman Island Plant for treatment. This pump serves Queens residents and businesses within a 620-acre drainage area (*Presentation was screenshared with everyone*).
- The station is located in Kew Gardens Hills in a sliver of Flushing Meadow Corona Park adjacent to Mauro Playground.

Ms. West asked Ms. Tania Quezada to continue the presentation.

Tania Quezada, Consulting Team:

- Project location slide was shown. An overview with pictures of the current site condition was also shown. Most of the station is completely below grade, there are hatches at the ground to allow equipment removal and for the operators to get down and access everything in the station.
- This is an unattended facility. There isn't someone there on-site, but someone goes to the location daily and checks on the pump station. There is daily access to the station.
- A slide with views of the pump station from the east side and southside of Park Drive East was shown.
- They have been working with DEP for a couple of years now. DEP operators will make sure that the new facility that designed is reliable and continues to service the neighborhood in a reliable fashion.
- Slides of the existing lot were shown as well as the proposed site plan which includes electrical vaults, removable fence panels for truck access, 18" wide by 3" deep plating bed with shrubs for visual barrier to be coordinated with the Parks Department for final submittal, force main vault, pumping station possession line and existing trees to remain.

Ms. Quezada asked Ms. Liz Claassen to continue the presentation on the architectural portion.

Liz Claassen, Goshow Architects:

- One of the main things that they focus on is on the context of the neighborhood and the main thing that stood out of it. They noticed that there are a lot of brick buildings, a lot of two-stories brick houses. Based on this, they will build the station mostly in brick and will mix it with metal panels.
- Slides of the renderings, north elevation and east elevation that faces the street were shown. It showed an example of how the site will look. Slides of the materials that will be used was also shown.
- The chain-link fence will be replaced with a new architectural security fence. Something like the fences surrounding Mauro Playground. There will be lights around the building, only for security purposes. They will not be on all night, only when there is people on the site. They site will use solar panels.
- During the construction period, there will be construction fences around the site. The fence will most likely line with the curb, there are certain areas around the site that are in disrepair, and they will fence it all the way to the curb as a safety measure and avoid any injuries from the public.
- During construction, they will demolish the existing pump station building, they will create a temporary pump station during construction to make sure they are maintaining service.
- They will have a meeting trailer on the site which is being coordinated with the Parks Department.
- The project is expected to start in October 2023 through April 2026. Substructure construction will be between December 2024 through June 2025. They anticipate this to be the highest on truck traffic. Construction hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Activity will generally ramp down by 3:30 p.m.

Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal opened the floor for questions from the Board Members:

Douglas Sherman – In terms of construction noise. What do you anticipate the noise during construction to be and after the construction, noise from the new pumps? What can residents expect to hear once this is all done?

Answer: *[Tania Quezada]* – In terms of after construction conditions, there won't be anything different from what's there today. The pumps are there below ground, and they will continue to be below ground. There is an emergency generator and power pack that's on site. That is just in the event that there is a power outage, there may be some noise, but it will just be the sound of the generator. They will follow all construction and non-construction noise regulations. Noise will only occur during emergency conditions.

Will notices be given to residents who live along, across the street and those who are going to be most impacted during the construction period?

Answer: *[Alicia West]* – Yes, it is still early on. We are still in the design phase, our outreach at DEP will be ongoing as we start to get construction under way. We'll be back in touch with the Community Board, and we hope that you can assist us in outreach as well.

Kevin Forrestal – To [Ms. West] – I can answer that question for you. One of the things that we'll discuss after is how we want to do some early notifications to the community based upon this meeting tonight. When we get more details, I would hope that I or whoever may succeed me at some point since we are talking about a year or so away, is that we'll have a public informational meeting. That's what we have done in the past in other situations. Now, my question is, this pump station's purpose is only to pump water out not in, correct?

Answer: *[Ms. West]* – This is a wastewater pump station. It takes water from people's houses and pushes it through the sewer system to the treatment plant for treatment. It is not for drinking water related.

Okay. My other question is about the current conditions. You stated that somebody comes and check on the station every day. Is there any alarm system if there is a failure?

Answer: *[Ms. West]* – Yes, absolutely. Tania can get into a little bit more detail of this, but all our stations have instrumentation that communicate to us that if there is an issue, we are aware of it.

A thought came to me with the elevation and the lack of really good environmental action. This is a personal view, that ponding is not an increasing problem in the future. Was there any thought given to potentially elevating the structure above one floor as we have flooding areas and houses and so forth and/or installing some drywells around the facility in case there is flooding around specially around the electrical.

Answer: *[Ms. Quezada]* – There are some guidelines that the NYC Mayor's Office put out. What is our design plan of elevation and then they put a whole bunch of contingency factors. Specially for a facility like this that is critical. We have our 100-year design plan of elevation and then we added 4 ft. on top of that. Our pump station of course the electrical building is above that elevation. That is all taken into account.

When was that done? That determination of those standards?

Answer: *[Mr. Osit]* – We have flood maps. I think it was in 2021, the City developed a contingency factor. Since we expect this building to be there for at least 40-50 years, we added about 60-inches above the current flood plan for climate change. There are some new regulations coming out, I think December of this year regarding inlet flooding that we will try to comply as well.

Answer: *[Ms. Quezada]* – The existing station does kind of deep down a little bit from street level, and that is one of the improvements we are making. That will all be raised to be even with street level.

The presentation that you made today; can it be forwarded to the Community Board? That way we can share with the community and put it on our website and/or newsletter.

Answer: *[Ms. West]* – It is a pretty large file. we'll make it into a pdf format and send it over.

DM Adam-Ovide – It is in a predominately Jewish area. I know that the time is from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and that they do finish around 3:30 p.m. but if the contractor has a permit that allows him/her to work until 6:00 p.m. and they happen to work later than the 3:30 p.m., there is nothing that we can really do to stop them. That is something that I would like to be sure that on Fridays, that they do finish early. I do know that they take extra parking spaces and things like that so people are going home early to prepare their Sabbath dinner and things like that so we would like to have them gone

earlier on Fridays, to ensure that the community has the least amount of disruption as possible. I am really certain that they will ask that question when you come so I want you to be prepared.

Answer – [Ms. West] – Thank you for the heads up. We’ll take that back and see what we can do.

Answer: [Mr. Forrestal] – Specially in the summer or the early daylight hours or in the winter when the sun goes down around 4:00 p.m. or earlier.

Committee Chair Kevin Forrestal thanked everyone for attending and he thanked DEP and the rest of the attendees for their presentation.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jatnna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff

April 24, 2022