



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

May 3, 2016

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Parks Department
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Re: Clement Clarke Moore Park Renovations

The Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (the “Committee”) of Manhattan Community Board 4 thanks the NYC Parks Department for its presentation to the Committee regarding the latest renovation plan for Clement Clarke Moore Park. Community Board 4 is pleased with the plans for the Park, with some requested modifications.

Most importantly, as expressed almost universally by both Committee members and the members of the public that attended the hearing, we request that the existing wrought iron fence be retained. The fence fits the Park esthetically. Moreover, the history of the Park shows that toys are often left in the Park and having the gate locked at night allows this tradition of toys being donated to the community to continue. The Board and the community are also worried about safety concerns that may arise if the fence is removed. The Committee had previously heard a presentation regarding the Parks Without Borders plan and feel it is inappropriate for our neighborhoods.

The Board’s other major concern is the timeline for completion of the renovation. Plans have been underway to renovate the Park for some time and the outline presented to the Committee does not anticipate the renovation being completed until mid 2017. Further, the Park would be closed for an entire year during these renovations. Given the paucity of parks in the Chelsea neighborhood, we ask that the timeline for the renovation be condensed, and that an effort be made to keep part of the park open while the other part is undergoing renovations.

The Board and the public also express the following requests:

- 1) Additional play surface between the smaller and larger play areas
- 2) Additional water feature in addition to the seals

- 3) Addition of at least two picnic tables
- 4) North side planting to have a marked path “through the woods”
- 5) Addition of water spout for hose by the water fountain
- 6) Addition of power outlets and wifi connection
- 7) Conversational seating area in the southwest corner
- 8) No mural on either the east wall or on the south fence
- 9) Plan for storm water retention

The Board would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Council Member Corey Johnson for his office’s contributions towards the renovation of the Park and asks that you continue to involve both the Committee and Council Member Johnson’s office in all planning for the Park.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair



Maarten de Kadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Lowell Kern,
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment
Committee

Cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council Member