



CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

*Martha -
file WSg PK*

3 Washington Square Village
New York, New York 10012
(212) 533-1617

ANDREW J. STEIN
BOROUGH PRESIDENT
Manhattan

CHARLES B. PERSELL
Chairperson

RITA LEE
District Manager

October 21, 1985

Commissioner Henry Stern
Department of Parks and Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Commissioner Stern:

At its meeting of October 17, 1985, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution regarding the balance of the Washington Square Park Renovation:

WHEREAS from 1979 to 1982 Community Board 2, Manhattan held numerous public hearings and committee and Full Board meetings -- all well attended--to elicit community comments, and

WHEREAS, in response to these meetings, Community Board 2, Manhattan, took the following actions:

March 1980--approved Parks Department Scope of Work for complete renovation.

January 1981--approved Villa and Sherr Schematics.

February 1981--approved retaining rose garden, petanque courts, and mounds.

September 1981--reaffirmed and approved of Villa and Sherr Schematics with particular recommendations to:

- Replace fences with piperail or shrubs to preserve lawn areas;
- Retain fence around rose garden and add height;
- Retain Petanque area next to the tot playground;
- Add safety surfacing around the sandpit in the northwest quadrant playground.

December 1981--strongly supported the Parks Department proposal to resod at least eight plots, install world's fair-type benches around those plots, and prune trees; and that we regret that the entire Park renovation would not proceed immediately.

January 1982--reaffirmed December 1981 resolution.

March 1982--approved underground irrigation system, resodding, fencing, fence repair, and maintaining present grassy areas.

July 1982--rejected a Parks Department redesign for Washington Square Park in favor of the original scope, and requested resodding around parkhouse and comfort stations, convert delapidated steps around fountain area with ramps, add two curb cuts at Washington Square North and Fifth Avenue, and

WHEREAS in 1982 some major renovation was done to the Park, ie: sodding; bench repair; piperail replacement, and

WHEREAS to address continuing concerns regarding the completion of the Park renovation, Community Board 2 held an additional public hearing on September 11, 1985, which was well attended by individuals and leaders of many organizations, and

WHEREAS 38 people testified at this hearing, and

WHEREAS many people also attended the Parks Committee Meeting of Community Board #2, Manhattan, on October 9, 1985, and were encouraged to speak on the Park design and did so speak, and

WHEREAS at the October Full Board meeting many people spoke, and

WHEREAS much time was spent both at the Committee Meeting and at the Full Board meeting in order to allow for full discussion and deliberation, and

WHEREAS Washington Square Park is used by thousands of people and is in dire need of substantial renovation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board #2, Manhattan requests the Parks Department to consider the following items and come back to this Board as soon as possible with a Department Scope:

1. Retain the mounds with additional play equipment plus a safe protective fence.
2. Retain the rose garden, with possible relocation.
3. Maintain the fountain area: plant trees around the perimeter of the paved area, add benches, redesign the fountain, plant around the fountain area, ramp the steps, replace concrete pavement with bluestone.
4. Maintain, totally redesign and extend the Northwest and Northeast Quadrant Playgrounds, install fencing with self-closing gates (high enough to keep children and their guardians in and other-than-children out), add protective plantings around areas. Add small comfort station for small children. Provide tricycle path within the northeast playground.

5. Replace concrete with bluestone throughout park.
6. Add sod to bald areas.
7. Retain and add World's Fair type benches.
8. Restore and improve parkhouse/comfort station and abutting area.
9. Prune and fertilize existing trees and shrubs.
10. Install sod and sprinklers in plots which were not previously done.
11. Redesign and expand Teen Plaza to accomodate a volleyball court, retain petanque courts, and include a special space for small informal concerts at the northeast bulb portion of Teen Plaza.
12. Improve lighting throughout park: install "B" pole with Central Park Globes and metal halide bulbs, and add security lighting where necessary particularly in the childrens' and petanque areas.

Vote: Passed - Items 2, 4-12: unanimous: 31 in favor
Item 1: 29 in favor, 2 opposed
Item 3: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

The proposal to install an historic fence around the Park was extensively debated and was defeated with 12 members voting in favor; 16 opposed, and one abstention.

Please contact us as soon as possible so that we can work together to implement this resolution.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Persell
Chairperson
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CBP:mg

1985