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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Roosevelt Island Committee
Monday, June 3, 2024 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolutions for Approval:
Item 3: Roosevelt Island Farmers Market (Unanimous Approval)

MINUTES:

Present: Judith Berdy (Public Member), Paul Krikler, Sharon Pope-Marshall.
Absent: Jimmy Starace (Excused – work), Barbara Rudder.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 17

Paul Krikler, Chairman, welcomes all attendees to the meeting (2:50) and introduced Bryant Daniels, Director of Communications of RIOC.

Item 1 – (03:08 minutes in) RIOC Updates

Bryant Daniels introduced himself. Mr. Daniels thanked all participants who attended the Roosevelt Island Pride Month Flag raising ceremony. Mr. Daniels mentioned Roosevelt Island Day on Saturday June 8, 2024, from 10 am - 3 pm, with details of activities. The details of repairs and groundskeeping by RIOC across the island were mentioned. Cy Offerman's retirement and advisory status was mentioned, and the status of the work of Eleanor's Pier was given. Coler Hospital berm visioning session date change for June 10, 2024.

Item 2 – (09:30 minutes in) The Citizen Project - update on Roosevelt Island technology platform featuring Kaushal Shah

Paul Krikler introduced Kaushal Shah for updates and details about the Citizen Project, the Roosevelt Island technology platform. Mr. Shah gave details of the initial designs. Mr. Shah described the design of a map and overlay of data allowing visitors to navigate Roosevelt Island. Walking paths and location information were mentioned. Estimated time for app rollout is fall 2024.

Item 3 – (26:20) Farmers Market

Paul Krikler introduced the next agenda item: Farmers Market. Mr. Krikler mentioned the idea of celebrating the Farmers Market organization head, Israel Wengard for his commitment in providing Roosevelt Island with our Farmers Market for over 35 years. The motion to organize and celebrate is passed unanimously. Meeting participants discussed ideas for how to mark the occasion.

The following resolution was then put forward by Community Board 8:

WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market has been a Saturday morning fixture on the island for 35 years starting in June of 1989; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farm provides Roosevelt Island residents with an amazing array of fresh and healthy produce and other foods; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market is set up year round, come rain, snow or shine; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market crew drives hours from their farm in Pennsylvania to bring the market to Roosevelt Island, leaving their farm in the very early hours and starting to set up on Roosevelt Island around 3 am, before most residents are awake; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market setup is always well laid out and well maintained during the day; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market crew are always friendly and helpful and adapt to community needs based on their customers; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market is very generous and supportive of the community and island organizations; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market has provided an invaluable addition to life on Roosevelt Island over decades; and
WHEREAS; The Wengard Farms Market crew always leaves the market site spotless at the end of the day;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan relishes the opportunity to thank Israel Wengard, his family, the cashiers and all the other staff for all the years of dedicated service to this community.

Yes (2+1): Berdy (Public Member), Krikler, Pope-Marshall

No (0): None

Abstain (0): None

Item 4 – (31:30) Discussion on an Extension of the Master Lease with Deputy General Counsel Gerrald Ellis (RIOC)

Paul Krikler introduced the subject of the Master Ground Lease. Mr. Krikler mentioned the details of the Ground Lease and the impending details of extending the Master Ground Lease. Paul Krikler introduced Gerrald Ellis (32:20), Deputy General Counsel of RIOC. Mr. Ellis discussed the importance of negotiating the Master Lease. The process and timeline of the discussions were mentioned. Mr. Krikler detailed how life on Roosevelt Island would be altered if the Lease expired and went back to New York City. Mr. Ellis detailed particular services RIOC does that would potentially change significantly. Mr. Ellis discussed the general process for negotiating between city and state. A question-and-answer session occurred with attendees of the meeting. Paul Krikler requested the motion to close the meeting and thanked Gerrald Ellis for coming to the meeting and thanked Howard Polivy, Roosevelt Island Board of Directors, for attending the meeting.

Item 5 – Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 6 – New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Paul Krikler, Chair, Roosevelt Island Committee