



**CB9M**

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**COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN**

September 25, 2019

Gale Brewer  
President, Borough of Manhattan

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Eutha Prince  
District Manager

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

**Resolution re: Design Proposal for the Rink and Pool at the Harlem Meer in Central Park North**

Dear Commissioner Silver,

At its regularly scheduled General Board meeting held on Thursday, September 19, 2019, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 approved the following **Reso re: Design Proposal for the Rink and Pool at the Harlem Meer in Central Park North** by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

WHEREAS, the existing Lasker rink and pool is inaccessible, past its useful life, and presents a fortress-like barrier that severs not only park patrons from the natural landscape but interrupts the hydrology of the site, separating the Harlem Meer from a series of water bodies and water courses connected to the Loch and Pool that was part of the original Olmsted plan; and

WHEREAS, there are 2.5 million annual visits to the Harlem Meer section of Central Park North and 220,000 annual visits to the Lasker rink and pool; and

WHEREAS, the existing Lasker rink and pool acts like a dam and impedes the flow of water and park patrons the proposed design for the new rink and pool reverses these negative impacts in the following ways:

1. The new rink and pool facility is integrated into the landscape so it does not act as an impediment for park-goers either visually or physically
2. The new facility incorporates bird-safe glass and uses green technology to greatly reduce both the water usage and energy impact on the city's infrastructure
3. The facility provides a welcoming entrance and uses locally sourced materials inspired by the nearby Huddleston Arch
4. The proposed design repairs the damaged landscape and restores the experiential quality of the water course by reconnecting the Harlem Meer to its natural systems

5. The proposed design supports broader park use and expanded programmatic offerings such as a splash pad area for kids, an overlook area on the green roof, and a Meer boardwalk

WHEREAS, Central Park was built to be a reprieve for city dwellers wherein recreation meant recreating your sense of well-being; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 19, 2019, Community Board 9 of Manhattan approves the beautiful and holistic plan for the pool and rink at the Harlem Meer.

If any further information is needed please do not hesitate contacting me, or District Manager Eutha Prince at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Barry Weinberg  
Chair

- cc: Hon. Bill DeBlasio, Mayor  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman, 13<sup>th</sup> D-NY  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> S.D.  
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator, 31<sup>st</sup> S.D.  
Hon. Inez Dickens, Assemblymember, 70<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Hon. Daniel O'Donnell, Assemblymember, 69<sup>th</sup> A.D.  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assemblymember, 71<sup>st</sup> A.D.  
Hon. Mark Levine, City Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Hon. Bill Perkins, City Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> C.D.