**Minutes**

Public Access Work Group

New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

September 22 2020 10:00 – 12:00 PM

1. Following a motion by Hugh Carola and seconded by Andy Juele, the work group approved the Minutes from April 2020 Meeting.
2. Lightning round report out/lessons learned for anyone who has done in-person with social distancing or used innovative virtual programming.  
    *Noted were efforts by Hugh Carola at Hackensack Riverkeeper who discussed their disinfection protocols and ways they have enabled guided paddles where people bring their own equipment; Chrissy Word from Partnerships for Parks about their in-person activities at Kaiser Park and Bushwick Inlet; Terri Carta from BGI mentioned strong interest in virtual BGI bike tour; Lindsey Campbell discussed some key findings from a recent survey from park groups about post COVID stewardship especially explosion in use/concern about trash and groups like Guardians of Flushing Bay that have pivoted to mutual aid/food relief. Maggie Flanagan from Waterfront Alliance and Eliz Baladares from HEP reported on the 42 City of Water Day programs, including the art installation at South Street Seaport. Maggie Greenfield mentioned BRA’s work Meaningful Mondays shoreline clean up. There was a discussion of walk up paddling programs and how to help participants do the right thing in terms of social distancing.*
3. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Roadmap/ Conference 10:25 - 10:40 AM**

HEP staff and CAC leadership have put together a draft roadmap for addressing the needs of environmental justice communities and addressing biases in our environmental conservation work. Elizabeth Balladares and Isabelle Stinnette reported on the result of our member survey and CAC/MC discussions, and presented our proposed tasks for the coming year. A key part of this will be annual conference now scheduled for the week of November 9-13.

*Key comments on conference program included need to address equity in spending in parks (Karen); connecting with other community-based and social justice organizations (Ibrahim); having sessions in the evenings to attract volunteers (Chrissy); looking at connections with land use decisions; balancing access / contamination / public health question (Hugh).*

1. **Paddling Guide 10:40 - 10:55 AM**

HEP will be working with partners to update the 2011 harbor-wide paddling guide and related web-based maps and materials ([https://www.hudsonriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/WaterTrailGuide0710.pdf](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hudsonriver.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2017%2F10%2FWaterTrailGuide0710.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAZARETSKY%40planning.nyc.gov%7Cea0fe13c8fa1431fb30308d858efdd76%7C32f56fc75f814e22a95b15da66513bef%7C0%7C0%7C637357134522469657&sdata=7znlSrnwrv6cHXmkKlmIlCVKuUwC1O4o4vc%2FxJmFFG4%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)) for the 2021 season.  Rob Pirani will provide an overview and Work Group input is requested as to the target audience, purpose, scope and format for the effort and invite people to take a quick survey.

*Several members of the committee volunteered to join a subcommittee to advise staff on the document, including Hugh, Rob B, Nancy B, Grahame, Willis, Owen, and Nate.*

*Results of the survey are attached.*

*Some key comments at the meeting included to review the previous iterations of the guide, including the smaller one with entire region; consider how best to connect to / support a web-based, mobile-friendly map; provide links to the NYC Water Trail site, NYC DCP, and other sources of information; consider a series of maps similar to those produced by the NY-NJ Trail Conference; be sure to include all of Staten Island; consider use of waterproof paper; how to identify official as well as unofficial launch/pull out sites; water quality information; and bicycle access.*

**5. Update on NE Staten Island Maritime Activation Plan 10:55 - 11:10 AM**

Maggie Flanagan shared a draft list of questions that are being developed for the project’s individual interviews and reviewed the purpose of the public stakeholder workshops.

*Key comments during the discussion that included a tip on auto transcribing the interviews (Lindsey); focusing on soft shorelines/kayak access (Rob B); being sure to talk to Sandy Hook Pilots Association (Jackie); resolve issues with the Urby dock (Owen).*

**6. Hudson River Estuary Program Flood Resilience Handbook  11:10 - 11:20 AM**

*Nancy Beard provided an overview of the forthcoming Flood Resilience Handbook for Public Access Sites Along the Hudson River, from Troy to Yonkers. The report builds on work undertaken by NYC Parks at https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/planning/resiliency-plans/flood-resiliency.*

The report is in final review and will be available at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5088.html.

**7. NYC DCP Comprehensive Waterfront Plan & Public Access 11:20 - 11:40 AM**

*New York City released its draft framework for the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan and plan website (*[*https://www.waterfrontplan.nyc/*](https://www.waterfrontplan.nyc/)*) and will host virtual borough workshops starting this week (*[*https://www.waterfrontplan.nyc/get-involved/upcoming-events*](https://www.waterfrontplan.nyc/get-involved/upcoming-events)*). Allan Zaretsky highlighted some of the upcoming events at the meeting and discuss key issues relative to public access.*

**Next Meetings**

Wednesday January 27 10 - 12 PM

Wednesday March 31 10 - 12 PM