

NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program Public Access Work Group

Thursday September 28 Waterfront Alliance 217 Water St. Suite 300

Minutes

Attendees

Maggie Flanagan, Waterfront Alliance (Chair)
Sara Powell, Bronx and Harlem Urban Waters Ambassador
Isabelle Stinnette, NYNJHEP
Shino Tanikawa, NYSWCD and NYNJHEP CAC
Jason Smith, NYRP
Jose Soergaard, Waterfront Alliance
Michelle Johnson, USFS
Alan Zaretsky, NYCDCP
Lewis Kleinman, Waterfront Alliance
Kate Boicourt, Waterfront Alliance
Roland Lewis, Waterfront Alliance
Robert Pirani, NYNJHEP

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of HEP Draft Priority Actions / Discussion of Role of Public Access Work Group

Rob Pirani reviewed the process for creating the 2017-2022 Action Agenda and the specific public access actions that are being proposed. These eight actions reflect earlier input from the committee and will constitute the todo list for the Committee and staff going forward. While the formal public comment period is over, HEP welcomes additional feedback from PAWG members on the report at http://www.hudsonriver.org/download/HRF_draft_agenda_final.pdf.

3. Assessing prospects and refining goals for increasing direct access for boating, swimming, and wading, incorporating associated water quality considerations (Draft Priority Action PA-A - 2):

The Committee discussed how to advance this work, including moving forward on updating inventory of access sites and updating and reissuing HEP's 2011 paddling guide.

Some key comments:

Introductory brochure for general audience to make them aware of paddling opportunities and some key issues (agencies and organizations that offer opportunities, water safety, water quality, habitat). Getting awareness to a more granular neighborhood

To be used for tabling at City of water Day and other events.

Access reflects as it is today, eg a legal site for paddling with whatever level of support. Consider including future access but only if it is in advanced stages of planning or construction.

Possible inset for lower Bay

Creating the map will require updating/reviewing public access data created by HEP and updated by Waterfront Alliance. Reviewing list of paddling organizations looking at SEW MAP survey. This data can be used to resurvey gaps; ID opportunities for access by use by PAWG partners. Consider how this information can be made available digitally eg through waterfront alliance scorecard, stewmap, HEP state of the estuary.

People to involve: Hugh Carola; Rob Buchanan, Nancy B, Dottie Lewindowski, American Canoe Association, REI, Keith from outrigger canoe club, John Daskalis, GNRA, Urban parks Rangers, NJ Kayak Association

Next steps:

- Discuss with key folks not at meeting.
- ID sources of funding for project and develop prospectus
- Go through map attributes and ID desired information for map and digital back up

4. State of the Estuary Indicators for Public Access/Stewardship:

Isabelle Stinnette reviewed and led discussion of indicators that could be used to gauge progress toward providing public access in HEP's upcoming State of the Estuary Report.

The group discussed:

- use of stewardship data and available data sets from USFS to show trends, (2007, 2009, 2015, upcoming 2017)
- Need to better define and consider how to portray higher need areas
- Consider how to use park user data from existing parks, boat clubs
- Acres of waterfront parks may be more relevant than linear miles
- Important to consider programs and relationship of access to programming
- How to show potential sites?

5. Climate Vulnerability Report:

Rob reviewed potential regional climate stressors and risks to public access identified by HEP.

Work Group members are asked to take the online survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HEP_Climate to help us prioritize identified risks (20 Minutes).

6. Stay tuned for a doodle poll for the next meetings