

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Roosevelt Island Committee
Monday, January 6, 2025 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.**

MINUTES:

Present: Lori Bores, Paul Krikler, Craig Lader, James Starace (Public Member), TJ Stein.

Absent: Judith Berdy (Public Member; Vacation), Sharon Pope-Marshall (Illness), Barbara Rudder

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 35

Paul Krikler welcomed all attendees to the meeting (3:35) and introduced Bryant Daniels, Director of Communications of RIOC.

Item 1 – RIOC Updates

Bryant Daniels announced that RIOC received two new Red Buses and is anticipating that they will be on the road in the coming days ahead after some cosmetic work and inspections. There will be updates on the bus schedule as soon as all details are finalized. Bryant announced that RIOC has hired a new transportation director. He also announced that a POMA (Pomagalski, SA) director will be monitoring tram activity as well various details pertaining to tram operations.

Item 2 – Library Updates

Paul Krikler introduced Brandon Korosh (40:00). Mr. Korosh announced some program updates such as:

- Baby Storytimes on Mondays through Thursdays.
- For adults, the library is offering a Google Suite class this month on January 27th, where there will be an introduction.
- There will be a program with the Roosevelt Island Historical Society with Judy Berdy and a to-be-determined guest on January 21st at 6:30 PM.
- There will be a new offering of Adult Game Night Wednesday, January 22nd at 5 PM, and this will be an ongoing new program.
- There will be a book discussion on January 8th at 6 PM.
- Crochet class will happen on Thursdays at 12:30 PM.

Folks should use using the library event programming as the best place to find up to date programs and schedules.

Item 3 – Community Updates

(41:45) No Community updates.

Item 4 – The Roosevelt Island Business Alliance - Skip Hartman

Paul Krikler introduced Skip Hartman of The Roosevelt Island Business Alliance (42:00). Skip Hartman described the logic and reasons for creating the Alliance, also called TRIBA.

Item 5 – Draft Resolution for Priority Boarding of the Roosevelt Island Tram for Residents and Workers*

(55:50) Paul Krikler introduced Craig Lader for the purpose of chairing the item on the resolution, and Craig explained the reasoning for this change (56:55). Paul Krikler described some background on the resolution and asked for time for those in attendance to participate in a Q&A on the resolution (1:00:00). A large number of residents spoke in favor of the resolution.

Paul Krikler made the motion on the resolution (1:53:00). The motion was seconded by TJ Stein (1:53:05). Paul Krikler explained the reasoning for the resolution (1:53:45). Lori Bores called the question (1:54:45). Craig Lader read the roll (1:54:50). Craig Lader announced that the motion passed 4-1 (1:55:30). Craig Lader announced that the Community Board 8 Manhattan Full Board meeting for the vote on this motion will take place January 15th, in which one can speak to this resolution in the public session. Paul Krikler announced that one must be there at the start for the public session, which is at the beginning of the meeting (1:56:10).

WHEREAS the Roosevelt Island Tram has ceased to be available to residents and workers as a reliable method of transportation; and

WHEREAS a combination of factors has led to a massive increase in the use of the tram by tourists, particularly since the tram has recently appeared in a number of “Top 10 Things to do in NYC” lists and social media videos; and

WHEREAS the Tram platforms are crowded, and lines often form outside the platform; and

WHEREAS what used to be crowding only at certain limited times of day and certain times of year is virtually now a constant. Residents and workers now struggle to get onto the tram, often starting in the morning until late into the night; and

WHEREAS many residents have given up on the tram while others struggle through the chaos. This is particularly onerous for residents who may be elderly or unable to walk or stand easily. The island is home to a lot of elderly people and to people with limited mobility. The same is also true for families with young children. The vast majority of school-age children who live on Roosevelt Island commute to school in Manhattan and many to District 2 schools on the Upper East Side; and

WHEREAS New York Transportation Law § 102 says: “No common carrier shall make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any person...” It doesn’t say there can’t be any preference shown. It is, therefore, reasonable to give residents and workers priority boarding and return the Tram to its original intended use of urban transportation; and

WHEREAS the Tram is funded by the residents through resident land leases and not by New York City or New York State; and

WHEREAS precedents for preferential treatment exist, such as:

In 1976, “residents were issued priority passes for the tram and a minibus that travels from the tramway station through the island's Main Street” due to the number of tourists displacing residents (Source: [NY Times](#));

On December 7, 2023, Governor Hochul announced preferential treatment for residents of Queens and the Bronx who use the Henry Hudson Bridge and Cross Bay Bridge with a toll rebate program, which is not available for those who do not live in Queens or the Bronx ([Release by Gov. Hochul](#));

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 8 Manhattan believes that priority boarding of the Tram for the residents and workers of Roosevelt Island is necessary and in the best interests of the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that RIOC present an action plan that fully prioritizes resident and worker boarding of the Tram.

Board Members in Favor: 4-1-0-0 (Bores, Krikler, Starace, Stein)

Board Members Opposed: (Lader)

Item 6 – Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 7– New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

*Joint item with the Transportation Committee

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Paul Krikler, Chair, Roosevelt Island Committee