

January 13, 2003

Robert Balachandran
President
Hudson River Park Trust
Pier 40 Second Floor
West Houston at West Street
New York, NY 10014

Re: Chelsea Waterside Park Play Area and Kiosk

Dear Mr. Balachandran:

Manhattan Community Board No 4 has long admired the speed with which the Trust has created elements of the Hudson River Park once the planning stages were completed. We were pleased with the speed in which the soccer field in Chelsea Waterside Park was refurbished and made ready for league play last spring. However, we are concerned with a delay in the completion of two elements in the park for which planning discussions were held and designs shown and approved a year ago.

The elements are the play area designed by Donna Walcavage and the comfort station/food kiosk by Vollmer Associates. We understood the Trust's argument that no construction could start until the fall of 2002 because that would disturb the use of the park during the busy summer period. However, it is now January, 2003 and construction has not yet begun. We are concerned that if the Trust is not ready to get bids, it may become too late to start the work, thus delaying construction for another year. That would be a great disappointment for parents and children who have been waiting patiently.

We are concerned that, in the flurry of recent activity at the Trust, the paperwork for these projects may have shifted to the bottom of the pile. Manhattan Community Board No 4 hopes that these long awaited projects can be moved to the top of the pile.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Local Electeds

