Call for Park to Be Named the “New York City AIDS Memorial Park”

March 7, 2016

New York City is about to officially name the park that will be home to an AIDS memorial, and advocates want to ensure the park will be named the New York City AIDS Memorial Park.

“The over 100,000 New Yorkers who lost their lives to AIDS, and the advocates who helped demand change, deserve and will soon have a beautiful public monument to pay tribute to their courage in the face of such adversity,” writes Eric Sawyer, New York City AIDS Memorial Board Member, on the memorial’s website. “It is only fitting that the beautiful park that surrounds and supports this monument…be forever named, The New York City AIDS Memorial Park.”

The team behind the memorial’s design and fundraising efforts have included a sample letter that can be sent or emailed to the relevant city’s parks committee members, city council members and other representatives.

A community board meeting hearing will be held to discuss this topic in the very near future, perhaps as soon as the second week of March.

The memorial is currently being built, with plans to open in late spring 2016. It is located in Greenwich Village, a few blocks from the LGBT Community Center and across the street from what used to be St. Vincent’s Hospital, the ground zero for AIDS in the early epidemic.

St. Vincent’s went bankrupt in 2010 and is being replaced with luxury condominiums.

For more on the memorial, read Trenton Straube’s July 2015 blog post “Love Ya, Walt Whitman, but Does ‘Leaves of Grass’ Belong on an AIDS Memorial?”

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