



# Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

## Meeting Notes

**Meeting:** MSK Pavilion Construction Working Group (CWG) Meeting  
**Date:** September 19, 2024  
**Location:** Zoom

### Members/Groups in Attendance:

#### **MSK Project Team**

CWG Co-Chair Shakima Grant, Senior Community Programs Manager,  
Community Engagement and Health Equity  
CWG Co-Chair Terron Browne, Project Manager, Design and Construction  
Ana Garcia, Senior Director, Community Engagement and Health Equity  
Caitlin Hool, Director, Community Engagement and Health Equity  
Roger McClean, Director, Design and Construction  
Maribel Rodriguez, Senior Project Coordinator, Community Engagement and  
Health Equity  
Jason Tavarez, Project Executive, Turner LendLease  
Shelly Friedman, MSK Land Use Counsel, Friedman & Gotbaum  
Ryan McCarthy, Senior Associate, JB&B

#### **Community Representatives**

Yasmina Caleo, F.A.C.T  
Courtney Ferrissey, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Office  
Mary Thomas Flaherty, 404 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street  
Harry Gale, Council Member Julie Menin's Office  
Rachel George, 400 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hon. Julie Menin, New York City Council Member – District 5  
Anat Rosenberg, F.A.C.T  
Judy Schneider, Community Board 8, East Sixties Neighborhood Association  
Sowaibah Shahbaz, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's Office  
Jonathan Szott, Council Member Julie Menin's Office  
Serge St. Leger, New York City Department of Education  
Myishia Taylor-Myke, New York City Department of Education  
Gregg Wolpert, 1213 York Avenue  
Martin Woodard, P.S. 183 Principal

#### **Observers**

Jochen Weber, 404 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street

### Members/Groups Invited but not in Attendance:

Father Stefan Chanas, Church of St. John Nepomucene  
Mary Gera, 436 East 66<sup>th</sup>  
Sarra Hale, New York State Senator Elizabeth Kruger's Office  
Laura Jackson, 438 East 66<sup>th</sup>  
Alex Kogan, Rockefeller University

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Shakima Grant welcomed the Construction Working Group (CWG) members and provided a brief overview of the meeting goals, format, and recurrence. The goals of the CWG meetings are to provide a forum where the MSK project team can:

- Provide timely updates to CWG members about Pavilion construction activities.
- Receive information and questions about ways the project construction activities are affecting the community.
- Report on how MSK is responding to community construction questions and concerns.

The CWG meetings are open to the public. However, questions should be posed through a CWG member for discussion.

## **Remarks from Council Member Julie Menin**

Council Member Menin provided an update on the collaboration between her office and MSK to identify construction mitigation measures to address public safety and quality of life around the jobsite, including for neighboring residents and the P.S. 183 community. Council Member Menin shared that she was confident that MSK will continue to address issues as they arise through the Pavilion CWG, and that there will be more announcements to come on the mitigation measure discussions with her office.

## **Construction Report**

Terron Browne highlighted activities that have taken place over the course of the last month, which include completion of the site fence and the installation of overhead protection along the sidewalks, as well as the removal of some soil at the exterior planters. Terron outlined the construction timeline for the next six weeks, which is available [here](#). The overall project timeline was also shared and is available at [www.mskcc.org/pavilion](http://www.mskcc.org/pavilion).

Roger McClean and Jason Tavarez provided an update on the asbestos abatement program. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved minor abatement work, including the removal of material on the inside of exterior planters. DEP approval is still pending for the major abatement to occur inside the building. Jason emphasized there are mitigation measures in place for all stages of abatement, which is stringently regulated by DEP.

## **East 66<sup>th</sup> Street Rendering**

MSK shared a rendering produced in response to community questions regarding the Pavilion's appearance on East 66<sup>th</sup> street and the location of the Pavilion oxygen farm. The rendering illustrated the location of the patient drive-through drop-off area, the garage entrance, the entry to the ambulance drop-off area (called the clean bay), and the oxygen farm.

## **Questions and Answers**

The following questions were raised during the meeting and answered as indicated.

- Recently the lab and construction site were evacuated due to a potential gas leak, how will emergencies such as that be communicated?

Information about emergencies will be shared with the CWG and the community in a timely way. A notification plan will be shared at an upcoming CWG meeting.

- When will we start receiving the air quality monitoring data?

Air monitors are currently installed and active around the perimeter of the site. A plan for sharing air quality data is in development and will be shared at a future CWG meeting.

- Can you share the upcoming activities on a regular basis?

Following each CWG meeting, the upcoming construction activities schedule will be posted on [www.mskcc.org/pavilion](http://www.mskcc.org/pavilion), under the Construction Notices section.

- The current look ahead is not reflective of the actual activity since you didn't get the DEP approval for the abatement. How can we get real time updates on activity?

The activity schedule presented at each CWG meeting is subject to change. MSK is committed to providing timely updates to our neighbors about Pavilion construction activities. Going forward we will make every effort to ensure changes to the schedule are communicated.

- I understand that there will be an extensive monitoring system put in place for the oxygen farm, I know it's non-combustible oxygen, but can you speak a little bit about the monitoring?

Monitors will be placed around the oxygen farm to measure any potential breach. While a breach is very unlikely, there are exhaust fans to help dissipate the air if a breach occurs.

- Is the gate going to be closed all the time, or is it going to be open, and at what frequency is the oxygen replenished?

The gates will be closed most of the time. MSK will report back at a future meeting the delivery frequency.

- How secure is the gate?

The gate is designed to ensure structural integrity and to brace against any potential forceful impacts.

- How are you going to manage people who do not know about the parking reservation system and just show up?

We will implement a plan to educate patients about the parking reservation process closer to when the garage opens in 2030.

- Will staff park in the new building as well?

Parking will be for patient and patient family members. There may be some accommodation for staff that have overnight work hours.

- East 67<sup>th</sup> street is the main pedestrian thoroughfare for P.S. 183 children. How are you going to keep the children safe with multiple lanes of through traffic?

There will be staff on site to help manage vehicular traffic via the valet parking and drive-through. Additionally, having the drive-through allows for the safe management of traffic within the footprint of the building.

- Why is there a need for a second entrance to the parking garage?

Although the parking garage is underneath the Pavilion, it is also a parking garage for patients and visitors to other parts of MSK's main campus. They will also need access.

- The parking garage connected to my building on East 67<sup>th</sup> Street is completely overwhelmed since you closed the parking garage on East 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Are you monitoring parking volume now?

Prior to closing the MSK parking garage on East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, MSK secured space at 425 East 61st Street garage. We encourage patients and their visitors to use that garage. MSK does not have visibility into how many drivers at outside garages are MSK patients and/or visitors, but we will flag the 67<sup>th</sup> street garage issue internally in case there is anything MSK can do to help alleviate the congestion.

- Can a rendering of East 67<sup>th</sup> Street be provided that depicts the same street view shown of 66<sup>th</sup> Street?

A rendering will be shared.

- Between the hours of 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, then from 2:15 PM, to about 2:45 PM, half of P.S. 183 families use York Avenue to get to and from school. While I understand that you're going to have staff assist with the flow of traffic entering and leaving the building, I strongly advocate that you consider some type of crossing guard or person there to ensure the safety of the students and families.

MSK appreciates this feedback and is committed to ensuring the community's safety during construction and after the building opens.

## **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 8:30 AM. Between meetings, project updates can be obtained as follows:

Pavilion Website: [www.msk.org/pavilion](http://www.msk.org/pavilion)

Email: [communityaffairs@mskcc.org](mailto:communityaffairs@mskcc.org)

Construction Hotline: 212-639-4444