



May 27, 2011

Rockaway Boardwalk Buffet Confirmed [GLENN COLLINS](#)



The cornucopia of new food offerings at Rockaway Beach is finally confirmed.

In his annual “opening Rockaway Beach” [news conference](#) Friday morning on the boardwalk in Queens, the city parks commissioner, Adrian Benepe, cautioned swimmers as he always does (“only when lifeguards are present” and “swim sober”) and lauded the city’s “14 miles of sand and water,” while announcing the opening of a mile of new boardwalk in sections between Beach 23d Street and Beach 81st Street.

And oh, yes, he said, as Brooklyn Based [reported](#) last week, there will be a robust menu of new specialty booths and carts organized by David Selig and Andrew Day Field, the owners of Rockaway Taco.

The parks department has announced that it is trying to get [better food vendors in the parks](#) and the commissioner said the city “really wanted to get culinary diversity out to the beach.”

“We’ll have traditional burgers and hot dogs and fries,” he added, “but also a very exciting lineup of wider offerings.”

Mr. Selig said he hoped many of the vendors would be out this weekend in concession areas at Beach 86th Street, Beach 97th Street and Beach 106th Street.

Some of the vendors have notable reputations.

At 86th Street they will include the [Meat Hook](#) (hot dogs and other meat treats), and a satellite booth of [Roberta’s](#) in Brooklyn.

At 96th Street, aside from concessions run by [Rockaway Taco](#) and [Veggie Island](#) (salads, smoothies, herbal teas), there will be booths from And Coffee (a local roaster offering multiple varieties of caffeine), Ode to the Elephant (pad Thai, green mango salad, etc.) and [Babycakes](#) (a satellite of the gluten-free, vegan bakery selling doughnuts, cookies and ice cream sandwiches). Also, Motorboat and the Big Banana (po’ boys, fried clams, chicken strips, French fries and chocolate-dipped frozen bananas from Jean Adamson from [Vinegar Hill House](#)), [P & H Soda](#) (sodas from artisanal concentrate), [DiCosmo’s](#) Italian ice, [La Newyorkina](#) paletas (frozen fruit purées on a stick) and a soon-to-be-opened watering hole, the Low Tide Bar (“we hope for the liquor license before July 4,” Mr. Selig said).

And at 106th Street there will be [Caracas](#) (an extension of the East Village and Williamsburg arepa bar) as well as [Blue Bottle Coffee](#) (a satellite of the Williamsburg location, offering an abundance of exotic coffees).

Some of the vendors will also pack their offerings onto beach-roaming food carts on sunny days. And Mr. Selig is hoping to invite several food trucks to stop by the boardwalk at peak times — names to be announced.

“This is just a first taste of some of the exciting offerings we’ll be announcing in city parks,” Mr. Benepe said.