

Landmarks Preservation/Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 2, 2014 at Broadway Housing, 135th and Riverside Drive
Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), James Amodeo, Joel Mentor, Gladys Tinsley
Michael Wells

Public attendees: none

Reviewed:

- 1) 280 Convent Avenue open house update was given by Arnold Boatner. Open house occurred March 25th as a result of strong opposition from neighbors to the addition of an external stairwell exit that will be largely glass. Open house was attended by approximately 90 attendees with almost all of them community residents opposed to the addition. A spirited discussion occurred regarding the lack of any formal approval process involving the community board prior to LPC hearing and approval. NYS SHPO office also hasn't given approval to CCNY plan for the building. FOIL request by community residents for LPC records regarding the approval process showed no written correspondence between community board staff or members with LPC regarding approval. Only sketchy notes regarding phone conversations between the district manager and LPC staff was listed in the FOIL documents. Colin Powell is the funding source for the addition. Discussion centered on whether or not Colin Powell has been informed of the opposition from the community residents. Approximately 10 community residents spoke in opposition to the renovation plans. Community residents argued that the large scale of the renovation was not necessary and that the building could be rehabilitated without the addition of the external glass stairwell. No written notifications had been sent to the neighbors in the immediate vicinity. CCNY officials agreed that they were negligent and insensitive in not reaching out to the neighbors. CCNY officials agreed to delay seeking final approval of the plan with the city until further discussions with the community had occurred. They also agreed to use the CB9 landmarks committee as the liaison for further discussion.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm
Submitted by Arnold Boatner