COMMUNITY BOARD 9 MANHATTAN
LANDMARKS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: February 14, 2011
Location: Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive
Present: Walter South
Simon Thoresen
Patricia Jones
LaQuita Henry

1. Chairman South called the meeting to order at 6.50 pm.

2. The agenda was adopted.

3. Convent Avenue Baptist Church Addition:

Jumaane Stewart, architect for the Convent Avenue Baptist Church, gave a detailed presentation of a proposal to build a new extension to the existing church building on an adjacent lot, owned by the church, consisting of a new entrance, lobby, stair and elevator. The building is in the Hamilton Heights Historic District. The facade would consist of a three story street wall of granite and glass panels, which refer to the materials of the existing church building.

A discussion followed regarding the appropriateness of the proposed structure in relation to the church and the adjacent townhouses. The Committee found it to be jarring, massive, too solid and lacking in scale. The architect and the church officials said they would take the comments into consideration. Meanwhile, they would like a letter from the Committee allowing them to go forward to the full Board meeting and to a hearing before the LPC, which was agreed upon.

4. 41 Convent Avenue and Old Broadway:

The politicians have not yet supplied letters of support, but Committee members will keep pressing them.

5. Morningside Heights Historic District:

Walter reported that LPC seems to be more sympathetic to an enlarged District. Money may have to be raised from friends and residents to do some of the historic research leg work for LPC.

6. PS 186:

Legal maneuvering between the City, Boy's and Girl's Club and the Plaintive group continues. Walter commented that although the deed restrictions have expired, no one could get financing to develop the property unless the City formally removed it.

7. M – 1 District between 126th St. and 129th St. and Amsterdam Av:

Walter reported that Scott Metzner wants the Calendaring of his buildings with LPC removed. The question was posed, is there a middle ground to protect them?

8. The meeting adjourned at 8.30 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 10.