

Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 4th, 2015 at Broadway Housing, 135th Street and Riverside Drive
Meeting called to attention at 6:40pm, as we did not have a quorum

CB9 Landmarks & Parks Committee Members in attendance:

Joel Mentor (Chair), Michael Wells, Kimberly Cameron

CB9 members in attendance:

Brad Taylor

Presentations:

NYC Parks Department – Carmansville Playground

Presenter(s): Steve Simon (Parks), Amy Sommer & Hyunch Sure, (Architects from Nancy Owens Studios)

Mr. Simon led the presentation with acknowledgements of former Council Member Robert Jackson (in attendance), and his contributions to realizing this project. Architects responsible for the playground redesign process provided a brief history of the playground. They also highlighted key elements of the intended redesign, which will encompass:

Increase and upgrade the active play capacity for the park and neighborhood

- Reconstruct Basketball Courts
- Reimagine the Play Equipment with separate sections for ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Provide an innovative and multi-purpose water play area / open performance space

Enhance and add to the environmental amenities of the site

- Protect existing trees
- Additional trees and planting beds
- Incorporate green infrastructure

The redesign will also address the fencing around the playground, as well as materials used as ground cover throughout the park. Appropriate signage will be included to note the playground's history, along with notable individuals that have been known to frequent the grounds over the years.

Board member Taylor raised questions about the process that led to the redesign. Steve Simon indicated that a scope meeting was initiated in March of 2014, where Community Board members and other community organizations were invited. It was noted that no one from the CB9 Parks Committee was present at the walkthrough, as we were not made aware. This will be brought to the attention of the Board Office. JMmentor requested that information about future scope meetings be made available to the Committee ahead of time.

Member Wells inquired about lighting in the playground, and whether that was ever an issue. The scope of the current redesign does address some aspects of standard lighting. The Parks Department does not provide sports lighting.

An additional \$2M in funding was made available from the Mayor's office to renovate the comfort station. Overall, construction is set to begin in the spring of 2016, and should take roughly a little over a year. At which time, the playground will be closed. A more tangible timeline will be provided once the redesign goes through all approval processes.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Submitted by Joel Mentor