

CB#9 Committee on Parks and Landmarks

Minutes of Meeting of January 10, 2005

Present: Carolyn Kent, Co-Chair; Gladys Tinsley, Patricia Jones, Savona Bailey McClain; Geoffrey Nulle, Public Member; excused Chantay Taylor, co-Chair; Absent: Sophie Johnson, John Reddick, Walter South, Maria Berman, Nicholas Bunning, Public Members Joshua Weinman, Dale Dobson.

Also present: Helen Chin, WEACTION

Short reports:

Mayor Bloomberg has signed a **City Council bill naming the Playground at 141st St. and St. Nicholas Avenue for Ollie Edinboro**. A community celebration will be hosted in the spring by the Ollie Edinboro Association.

The **City Council Subcommittee on Landmarks hosted the 2nd of two Over-sight hearings** on the procedures of the Landmarks Preservation Commission on Nov. 29th. Thirty-five testified on their work with LPC.

City Councilman Bill Perkins, Chair of the **Government Operations Committee held an Oversight Hearing on Community Board needs** on Jan. 12, 2005, where Jordi Reyes-Montblanc and George Goodwill very effectively testified on the deficient budget support for the CB2.

Congressman Charles Rangel and City Councilman Bill Perkins continue to hold off a **demolition permit for the St. Thomas the Apostle Church** while the NY Landmarks Conservancy has funded an engineering study.

The LPC gave legal approval to the **bluestone steps at 328 Convent Avenue** and, after recommending minor changes, to the **entry stairs and landing at 455 W. 144th St.** – as recommended by our Committee – in the Certificate of Appropriate Hearing of November 23rd, 2004.

At this first meeting of the new year, we reviewed **our into-2005 agenda:**

Parks: NYS DOT will come to our Feb. meeting on the **proposed bridge to provide handicap access to upper Riverside Park at 152nd St.**

We must work on **funding for 148th St. bathrooms and stairs in Upper Riverside Park.**

"Take me to the River": Savona McClain reported 1)that consultant Donna Walcavage will make a report on the project's final plans to Assemblyman Farrell on Jan. 22nd; 2)that West Harlem Art Fund, through a statewide competition, has won the support of Parks & Trails of NY to provide additional technical assistance for the Enchanted Forest portion of the Riverbank slope (W. 145th – W. 153rd Sts.) with further assistance from the Riverside Park Fund; and 3)that a public multi-media presentation of the plans and a reception will be held at the Hispanic Society of America on Feb. 24, 2005, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. CB#9 will co-sponsor this with the Boro President's Office, the West Harlem Art Fund, Riverside Park Fund, Community League of the Heights, and NYC DPR; Harlem Youth Soccer & Tony Fernandez Little League are Participating Organizations.

Savona McClain gave a full report of a meeting held at CB#9 on Jan. 4th by the Harlem Piers & Economic Development Committee which representatives from the **New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)** attended. NYMTC is the agency that will be developing a corridor management plan for the Henry Hudson Parkway from the Westchester County line south to 72nd St. NYMTC is required to hold stakeholder conversations. They will meet with CB#9 again on March 1st.

Restoration of Riverside Drive promenade from 113th to 117th Sts. will begin in spring 2005 – Federal funds and allocation from Bill Perkins. Also, restoration of **stairs from Drive to Tennis Courts at 120th St.**

DPR will come to Committee in February to present plans for restoration of **St. Nicholas Park stairs at 131st St., St. Nicholas Ave. to St. Nicholas Terrace;** through \$1 million allocation from Robert Jackson.

We will be reviewing plans for a **retaining wall for the dog run in Morningside Park** when these become available.

Broadway Malls: Grant from the Borough President?

Edgecombe Avenue restoration, 145th to 155th Sts. Follow up.

3.

Submit Covent Gardens to SHPO and press LPC.

Cathedral of St. John the Divine: press issue.

Hamilton Theater, interior designation: press issue.

Completion of Sugar Hill Historic District: press issue.

Riverside Dr. viaduct and other Manhattanville sites found eligible by OPRHP for National Register: take to LPC

Begin landmarking Upper Riverside Park.

Work with Montefiore Park Association on designation of Park as Hamilton Square.

New Business: Suggest to the Executive Committee that an Ad Hoc Committee with representatives from all appropriate Standing Committees be named to consider alternate uses for the Marine Transfer Station as a way of protecting the now open options for this site.

Adjourn to February 14, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn Kent