

Landmarks Preservation/Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 6, 2013 at Broadway Housing, 135th and Riverside Drive
Meeting called to order at 6:37pm

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas
Joel Mentor, James Amodeo, Gladys Tinsley, Brad Taylor, Padmore John

Public attendees: Paul Evans-Riverside Park, Boris Berlin, Collin Samuel, Fabayo Muhammad

Discussions:

Riverbank State Park Dog Run Petition- Boris Berlin, Collin Samuel, and Fabayo Muhammad are dog run advocates and attended the meeting to speak and present a petition with 300 signatures gathered to establish a dog run in Riverside Park. Mr. Berlin said he thought that community board opposition to dog fighting was the reason that the community board had been opposed to establishing a dog run. It was pointed out to him that the community board hasn't opposed a dog run. Discussion followed about the original site selection of a proposed dog run by Ms. Muhammad and why dog fighting was mentioned as one of the reasons the site was never fully developed. Paul Evans pointed out that construction costs of dog runs isn't always funded by the parks department. He stated several dog runs established in other parks had been funded by friends groups and maintained by volunteers. There isn't consensus among dog run advocates about the location that should be chosen with Mr. Berlin expressing support for a site at 152nd and Riverside and Ms. Muhammad preferring the site at 143rd and Riverside citing safety concerns over the relatively isolated location at 152nd Street. Paul Evans pointed out the selection of the 152nd site would help curb crime in that area. Brad Taylor pointed out that 2 years ago the parks committee had advocated establishing both the 143rd Street and the 152nd Street locations. Plans were presented by Margaret Bracken of the parks department to finish the 143rd Street site but that nothing happened subsequently. Arnold Boatner pointed out that a large amount of funding for parks projects were allocated by city council members and that reconstruction of steps in Riverside Park had taken a higher priority than establishing a dog run. Rev. Thomas concurred with what had been stated by Brad Taylor and Arnold Boatner and urged the dog run advocates to contact elected officials and also urged that a community board letter of support be written and sent to elected officials along with the 300 signature petition. A motion was passed to draft a letter of support along with any resolutions passed by the board in the past in support of a dog run. A motion was also passed to present the dog run to the general board for support. James Amodeo was asked if he would draft the letter of support along with any resolutions and documentation in terms of support of a dog run.

CBA Strategic Planning Committee Research- Arnold Boatner gave an update on research presented by Jonathan Thomas on sections of the Columbia University Community Benefits Agreement that address landmarks/preservation funding.

Columbia CCIA Intern Program- Arnold Boatner gave an update on the intern selection process for the program that will provide an intern(s) to the community board for the spring 2014 semester.

Teachers College Community School-Joel Mentor and Rev. Thomas gave an update on the playground selection situation for TCCS.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm
Submitted by Arnold Boatner