

Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 5th, 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 Palma, Jonathan Thomas

CB9 members in attendance:

Presentations:

846 St. Nicholas Avenue, NY 10031 – Stoop and low wall reconstruction

Presenters: Zevilla Jackson-Preston, Registered Architect

Ms. Jackson presented plans intended for the demolition, and reconstruction of the front stoop/stairs and low wall enclosing the front yard at 846 St. Nicholas Avenue. The reconstruction will restore the historical context of the structure. This will also correct discrepancies in proper riser heights, address the angle at which the stairs meet the sidewalk, and overall deteriorating conditions. The stairs will be rebuilt using CMU (Concrete Masonry Blocks), and refinished using a texture similar to brownstone. Previous application to LPC have addressed the general exterior of the building, which has been refinished, as well as windows being replaced with solid wood fame. No other changes will be made to the structure. A letter of support will be presented to General Board for a vote.

Old Business

Resolution for the Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family.

The committee will proceed with issuing a resolution drafted by Hon. Jonathan Thomas, urging the Landmarks Preservation Commission not de-calendar its nomination. Member Palma made some suggestions to strengthen the conclusion of the reso, and inquired whether the church was still Roman Catholic, and if the Archdiocese was still in support of the building being landmarked.

The committee also discussed upcoming testimonies to LPC, scheduled for 11/12/15. Comments will be submitted electronically in support of revising NYC Council resolution on backlogged items.

Members of the public voiced concerns over conditions at St. Nicholas Park, around the terrace. We provided information on how capital projects are handled/funded by DRP and elected officials. Our committee will keep these issues on the forefront, and continue to report them to Park Managers.

Mr. Kelvin McAllister, founder of Uptown Inner-City League spoke of opposition his organization is currently facing in operating their program at Annunciation Park. He was allowed to maintain equipment storage on site in the past, but was recently asked to remove the structure and its contents. We recognized the work being done by the organization, making the playground a safe haven for youth. We will gather more information on the matter, and address with all stakeholders. We also provided Mr. McAllister with contacts at Partnership for Parks, in an effort to possibly provide further support for the program's needs.

New Business

In continuing the committee's efforts to address and manage issues reported at our local playgrounds, member Palma has signed up to take on Monte Fiore, and Jacob Schiff parks. We also discussed reported needles at Morningside Park, which Brad Taylor has escalated to Commissioner Bill Castro.

We reviewed a draft letter to WHDC, requesting in-kind benefits to engage resources for a historical survey of the Hamilton Heights, to identify landmark worthy sites. Member Palma advised that consulting local historians and preservationists to provide support, as well as the 197A Plan. We will reach out to our local resources, review board records to compile a list that will be presented to LPC for consideration.

CB7 has contacted CB9, as they are looking to form a task force to handle the renovation of Cherry Walk. Interested members of the committee will work closely with CB7 when next steps are introduced. In addition to the renovation, members also raised a need to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety along that stretch of the park.

The committee also addressed current conditions of the exterior of Hamilton Theater. We will contact the owner(s), and their representatives for upkeep schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted by Joel Mentor