

Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 9th, 2015 at Broadway Housing, 135th Street and Riverside Drive
Meeting called to order at 6:40pm.

CB9 Landmarks Committee Members in attendance:

Joel Mentor (Chair), Jonathan Thomas, Daniel Marks Cohen, Gladys Tinsley

Presentations:

George Calderaro, Historic District Council, NY50 Landmarks Alliance

Mr. Calderaro has shared a Borough wide draft resolution, outlining history and purpose of the Landmarks Law as well as the role of Community Boards to serve as the voice of the public to uphold its values. It also cites the benefits of preserving landmarks (environmental, economic, neighborhood stabilization, and sustainability).

CBs have also been invited to add their own take on this reso. Some key points added by the Landmarks Committee state the need to enlist the support of local architectural institutions (schools, established firms, etc...) to alleviate the backlog and help address future designations; as well as proposing to the LPC that they act in conjunction with the Department of Buildings to engage their Inspectors in order to expand their enforcement capabilities.

This resolution has been approved by 9 of Manhattan's Community Boards. (9, 10 and 11 are next to adopt this resolution). The ultimate goal is to present a united voice to our elected officials, and strengthen our commitment to preserve historic sites. The Landmarks and Parks Committee voted in support of this resolution.

Richard Cox, Harlem Skyscraper Cycling Classic

The organization, which has been in operation since 1973, runs a number of multicultural and educational programs. They also organize the Harlem Bike-a-thon which takes place every Father's Day around Marcus Garvey Park. The organization is putting forth a proposal for feedback/suggestions, as they look to bring their time trial and other events to West Harlem (particularly CB9). Their hope is to encourage cycling in the area, and showcase open spaces, architecture and landmarks. Other goals are to foster alternative means of transportation, and bring awareness to the need for more bike lanes in Harlem. The proposal involves events that would impact traffic for prolonged periods, and will require coordinating efforts from several public offices.

Member Cohen suggested that the committee withholds feedback and support until the full board has the opportunity to review and discuss the contents of the proposal. All were in agreement.

Harlem Skyscraper Classic is set to present to the General Board during our next public session.

Old Business

Committee members will continue to work with DPR to address issues, conditions, and needs at local parks and playgrounds. Members are in the process of choosing sites in the district for which they'll be reporting on.

New Business

Landmarks Committee will draft and present resolutions against Intro 775 at City Council, and one to support de-calendaring of St. Joseph Church on Morningside Avenue and 125th Street.

CB9 has on record an existing resolution issued in 2011 supporting de-calendaring the complex of Yuengling Brewery (aka Mink Building), as that structure received extensive renovations in recent years.

The Committee is also working with the Chair of Strategic Planning to issue a letter requesting in-kind benefits to provide historical reference to potential landmarks in the district. Target area will focus on W135 to W155 between Riverside Drive and Broadway. Depending on the results of this request, this will expand to other areas that have not yet been surveyed or submitted for designation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Submitted by:

Joel Metnor