

Landmarks Preservation/Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 5, 2012 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor
No Quorum: Meeting called to attention at 6:50pm approximately

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), Joel Mentor
Public Member in attendance: Jen Silverman

Public attendees: Paul Evans, NYC Parks manager Riverside Park; Margaret Bracken NYC Parks Dept.; Yuien Chin

Presentations and discussions:

- 1) Margaret Bracken of the Parks & Recreation department gave an update on the Tiemann Stairs repair & renovation. The renovation is sponsored by Councilwoman Inez Dickens at a cost of \$300,000. Tiemann Stairs are located on the viaduct which was constructed in 1901. There was a minor renovation of the viaduct and stairs done in 1935 under the direction of legendary city planner Robert Moses. Pictures of the area of renovation were provided. There will be bluestone pavement on the landing areas and hexmark paving on the remaining area. There was discussion of the placement of benches in the area and the placement of dividers on the benches to prevent vagrants from loitering on the benches. There was also a brief discussion of the St. Clair steps repand renovation which will begin in the next few weeks. Total costs of both Tiemann stairs and St. Clairs stairs repairs will be \$650,000.
- 2) Frederick Douglas Circle Skateboard Meeting- Discussion regarding on-going meetings during summer recess with Friends of Frederick Douglas Circle. Group has been established to address the issue skateboarders frequenting the Circle and using it as a skate park while doing great damage to the surfaces of the memorial. Arnold Boatner gave an update on efforts by the group to enlist the aid of public officials to prevent skateboarders from continuing to use the circle. Boatner also mentioned a website that chronicles all of the skateparks in metro New York. Following is the link to the website: <http://newyorkcityskateparks.com/>
- 3) Discussion of St. John the Devine Cathedral proposed housing development project and the Morningside Heights Historic District organization which opposes the plan. The executive director of the preservation organization has been invited to present to the committee but has thus far failed to attend. There was a suggestion that the Cathedral should be invited to present their updated plans to the committee. An invitation will be extended to the church.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm
Submitted by Arnold Boatner