

Landmarks Preservation/Parks Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday September 4, 2013 at Broadway Housing, 135<sup>th</sup> and Riverside Drive  
Meeting called to order at 6:42pm approximately

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), Gladys Tinsley, Joel Mentor, James Amodeo, Vicky Gholson

Public attendees: Victoria Mason-Ailey-Columbia University, Ameena Qayyum, Columbia University

Discussions:

Riverbank State Park-Arnold Boatner gave an update on the Fall/Winter programs at the park. He also discussed the coordinated effort of the committee over the summer to request a formal written evacuation procedure for the park be developed. Effort is in conjunction with the North River Community Environmental Review Board which is headed by Ann Rocker. Boatner attended a NRCER meeting in August in which representatives of the state parks department, NYC DEP, and state and federal EPA officials were asked to develop a formal written evacuation procedure. Martin Smith of NY State Senator Espaillat's office also attended the NRCER meeting and engaged a DEP communications representative Shane Ojar in an exchange over the need for public notification for any type of incident at the park. Boatner requested that the parks/landmarks committee draft a resolution in support of the written evacuation procedure. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the fire that occurred two years ago and the ramifications of not having a codified notification procedure in place. It took 45 minutes for the DEP to notify the park staff and state police that the fire had started. Oscar Smith of the state parks department has been asked to submit notes in support of the resolution to the committee. Joel Mentor volunteered to draft the CB9 resolution in support of the written evacuation procedure.

Riverside Park- Arnold Boatner gave an update on the crackdown this summer on noise in the park by the NYPD and PEP officers. The noise centered in the parking lot below 148<sup>th</sup> Street along the Westside Highway. A Daily News article has been published about the crackdown not only on loud music but also on crime in the form of drugs and prostitution that was allegedly occurring in the parking lot and park. There was also a discussion regarding some meetings that occurred prior to the crackdown among condo and coop residents along Riverside Drive that became heated and racially polarizing.

Vicky Gholson next gave an update on efforts by the DEP to stop barbecue activity in a community garden she leads. DEP has requested a list of activities that will occur in the garden to regulate the type of activities that will be occurring. An unannounced visit to the garden was conducted by DEP officials. Gholson has requested that DEP be asked to address the parks/landmarks committee at the next meeting of the committee and identify parcels owned by the city.

James Amodeo gave an update on crime incidents occurring at the north end of Riverside Park along the bike trails that was recently published in the newspaper.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Submitted by Arnold Boatner