Landmarks Preservation/Parks Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 5, 2012 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor
No Quorum: Meeting called to attention at 6:45pm approximately

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), Gladys Tinsley, Joel Mentor

Public attendees: Ray Acosta, NYC Parks Dept. regional manager for Morningside, St. Nicholas and Jackie Robinson Parks.

Presentations and discussions:

1) 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. Among topics covered were complaints from area residents regarding noise and safety concerns, the use of social media to inform skateboarders not to use the Circle and the deployment of PEP officers and NYPD to enforce the skateboard ban. Other sites being utilized illegally by skateboarders were also covered as well as legal skateboard sites like Chelsea Piers and potential sites in Riverside Park. Arnold Boatner working with Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner William Castro on proposal to establish new Skate Park on city owned land currently being utilized by Sanitation department for storage of salt.

2) Next was a discussion regarding summer recess meetings covering the topic of barbecuing in Morningside Park. Among topics covered the posting of signs indicating which areas are allowed for barbecue as well as the use of less toxic materials to start the barbecues. Ray Acosta the regional parks administrator was unaware of discussions and meetings. He was given contact information for North Star Association representatives.

3) Ray Acosta gave an update on improvements that have been done in Morningside Park this past summer. The park has had over $12,000 in improvements. He stated that holidays are the biggest days for barbecuing. He also outlined his jurisdiction which covers from 155th Street to Lincoln Center and covers Community Boards 7, 9 and portions of 10.

4) Brief discussion on District Needs Statement and Budget Priorities for FY 2014 and the need for a skate park as a priority.

5) Lengthy discussion followed regarding proposed land marking of 41 Convent Avenue and the Synagogue on Old Broadway across the street from the community board 9 offices. Gladys Tinsley gave a thorough and detailed history of efforts to landmark 41 Convent Avenue. She also provided Chair Arnold Boatner with a book of documents that chronicled the landmark efforts.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm
Submitted by Arnold Boatner