

**MINUTES OF THE CB#9 PARKS AND LANDMARKS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2004**

**PUBLIC HEARING:  
ULURP ON MAP CHANGE FOR GENERAL GRANT'S TOMB**

Quorum Committee: Carolyn Kent and George Goodwill, Co-Chairs: Maritta Dunn, Joshua Weinman, Patricia Jones, Ernestine Welch, Chantay Taylor, Carlotta Damanda, Nicholas Bunning, Patricia Lewis, present; Maria Berman, Gladys Tinsley, Sophie Johnson, excused; John Reddick, Janet Ramon, Carmen Perez absent. Parks/Landmarks Committee members Walter South and Savona Bailey McClain, Public Member Dale Dobson, and Board members Francis Mack and Sylvia Robinson were present.

Also present: Joseph Avery, Superintendent of Manhattan Sites, National Park Service; Jane Cleaver, Director of Parklands and Kaitilin Griffin, DPR.

Community members present included NY State Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, historic preservationists Michael Gotkin, Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, and Michael Henry Adams, Harlem historian.

The Hearing was opened at 6:45 PM.

Superintendent Avery and Director of Parklands Cleaver introduced the substance of the ULURP: this is to approve a change in the New York City Map which will reflect an easement in perpetuity of an area of the Tomb's front plaza and an area in Riverside Park directly west of the Tomb on which is located a viewing pavilion designed and built in 1910 by Theodore Videto for the Parks Department from DPR to the National Park Service, an easement that will allow the NPS to rehabilitate the viewing pavilion for use as a Visitor Center.

Discussion by both Quorum Committee members, community residents, and noted guests centered in two aspects of the easement: 1)NPS responsibility for the viewing pavilion will bring funds into the neighborhood to restore the pavilion's bathrooms for public use, to stabilize the pavilion's structure, to replace the disintegrating roof; 2)the pavilion is a protected historic site within Riverside Park, a New York City Scenic Landmark also listed on the State and National Registers and we must protect the open air viewing platform character defining the structure's original intention.

After assurance from Superintendent Avery no enclosure was intended under the funding allocation currently sought and that design questions to be brought to the Community Board and resident associations' review would in the future include any questions of enclosure of the pavilion's open air character, a motion was offered by Nicholas Bunning and seconded by Chantay Taylor to approve the disposition with the following condition:

That the overlook pavilion structure scheduled for restoration remain open and unenclosed at street level and that its original intention to serve as an open air viewing platform be sustained

vote of Quorum Committee 7-2-1; other Board members 3-1-0; Community 9-0-0.

**Regularly scheduled Parks/Landmarks Committee meeting resumed:**

Nathan Whyte, Vice President of the Arlington (Ollie) Edinboro Community Organization, joined by others significantly influenced by DPR youth recreation leader Ollie Edinboro, presented a request for the naming of the playground at 141<sup>st</sup> St. and St. Nicholas Avenue in Mr. Edinboro's honor (see attached biography.) The draft reso was approved by a vote of Committee members 7 - 1 - 0, Public Member 1 - 0 - 0, Other Board Members present 1 - 0 - 1.

Avra Petrides, Artistic Director of the Bridge STAGE OF THE ARTS, discussed developments in her group's negotiations with the Emmes Corporation for purchase/rental of the Hamilton Theatre, 146<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway, and asked for a vote of Board support for their efforts "to restore Thomas W. Lamb's 1913 Hamilton Theater...to return it to its former use and glory as a Vaudeville Palace, and to establish there a community and international arts center presenting all forms of artistic expression including theater, dance, music, and the visual arts." The draft reso was approved by a vote of Committee members 8 - 0 - 0, Public member 1 - 0 - 0, Other Board members present 1 - 0 - 1, Community 4 - 0 - 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM to May 10, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carolyn Kent