

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

July 12, 1995/Calendar No. 39

N 950539 HKQ

IN THE MATTER OF a communication, dated May 19, 1995, from the Chairman of The Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmarking of the Unisphere and the Surrounding Pool located in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park (Block 2018, part of Lot 1), designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on May 10, 1995. (List No. 263)

NAME	<u>The Unisphere with its surrounding pool and fountains</u>
LP	<u>1925</u>
ADDRESS	<u>Flushing Meadows-Corona Park</u>
BORO/CB	<u>Queens/3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9</u>
Tax Block	<u>2018</u>
Tax Lot	<u>part of 1</u>

Report of the City Planning Commission (Calendar No. 39), dated July 12, 1995, stating that:

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of the designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements and any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

The Unisphere, located in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, was the centerpiece and visual logo of the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair symbolizing the theme of "peace through understanding." It was designed by Gilmore D. Clarke, the noted landscape architect who had devised the geometric, Beaux Arts-inspired layout of Flushing Meadows Park which formed the basis of the plans for both the 1939-40 and 1964-65 World's Fairs.

The 140-foot high, 700,000-pound stainless steel globe towers over a circular reflecting pool containing fountains that spray water twenty feet in the air. The sphere is covered with representations of continents, showing the major mountain ranges in relief, and is encircled by three giant rings denoting the first man-made satellites, which had been launched in the late 1950's. The circles which make up the armillary sphere represent the lines of latitude and longitude. The world's capital cities are marked

by lenses which, during the Fair, were backed by flashing lights.

As part of a 3.6 million dollar restoration project of the Park, the Parks Department restored the Unisphere and the reflecting pool and fountains in late 1993 and early 1994. The sphere itself was cleaned and stabilized. It remains one of the most prominent structural and landscape features of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, and a visual reminder of the second of New York City's World's Fairs.

The City Planning Commission evaluated this designation in relation to the Zoning Resolution. Section 74-79 concerning the transfer of unused development rights from individual landmarks to "adjacent" lots does not apply to landmarks located on parkland because the property is unzoned.

The Department determined that there are no public improvements projected for the area. The City Planning Commission finds that the proposed landmark designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, proposed public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement or renewal of the area involved.

JOSEPH B. ROSE, Chairman

VICTOR G. ALICEA, Vice-Chairman

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