

CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2019

Called to Order: 6:45PM

**City College, Wingate Hall Project, 200 Convent Avenue - Elemental Architecture**

- Wingate Hall was originally used as the gymnasium when it was built in 1907
- New elevator core will replace the staircase on the northeast corner of the building, connecting all of the levels and making the entire building ADA accessible
  - Able to maintain fire egress requirements
  - The lancet windows that are currently part of the staircase will undergo minor modifications - windows will be converted into blind windows, filled in with flat cast stone panels
    - The majority of the buildings on campus had the terracotta quoining replaced in the 1990s with cast stone - infill lancet window panels would also be made of cast stone
    - Blind windows are part of the original language of the architecture - it is incorporated in almost all the buildings on the campus
- Modifications will be made to an existing entrance on the southeast corner of the building
  - New wood doors based on architect George Post's 1907 design will be installed
  - New blind transom will be incorporated as well
  - Doorway will be lowered 6 inches to eliminate need for ramp - right now it is the now ADA accessible entrance to the building
  - Through the new entrance you can walk through to the new elevator and access the entire building
- Details of the interior work are as follows:
  - Part of future scope of work: Large lecture facility will replace the pool area - pool has been used to store files - "it is abandoned and its finishes "have been cannibalized"
  - Locker rooms, bathrooms, corridors and elevator shaft are all part of the interior work
  - Utility corridors will be widened
  - Rest of the building will be whiteboxed for as yet undesignated, unprogrammed space
- Elemental Architecture has worked with City College since 1986

**Public Announcement\_Annual Summer Jam in NYC Parks - Sylvester "DJ Sly"**

- Provides free food, water, music, arts & crafts
- With just his own efforts, Sylvester has been doing this work for 4 years

- Has had problems obtaining a permit for 135th Street-area in St. Nicholas Park
- Sylvester lives in Harlem - born and raised
- According to Matt, our dedicated CB9 Parks representative, Arnyce of Historic Harlem Parks handles the permits for St. Nicholas
  - Permit has been filed but was told that Parks does not do loud musical events in that area - issue of noise complaints - Parks has had issues with this in the past

#### **Memorial to “Gym Crow” Protesters**

- Honoring all the activists in 1968 who prevented the construction of a segregated gym facility proposed by Columbia University on 2 acres of Morningside Park - the original blast site was a crater for decades until recently when it was turned into a landscaped waterfall/pond area - Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee supports a plaque/historic marker to commemorate the activists and this important history
- **Update:** In addition to a phone conversation with Suki Ports, a longtime Morningside Heights resident and a community activist who sat in front of the bulldozers in 1968, Co-Chairs Jonathan and Anthony had dinner at Maison Harlem with Carolyn Brown and Leon Denmark, two Columbia alums who were part of/aided the Student Afro-American Society (SAS) group in occupying Hamilton Hall on campus and helping to defeat the proposed gym
  - A meeting with Ray Brown and Bill Sales, leaders of SAS, is being organized as is a phone call with Paul Cronin, documentarian and editor of “A Time to Stir: Columbia ‘68”

#### **142nd Street Dog Run Update\_Riverside Park**

- No consensus from dog run group on hours of operation has been reached
  - Until a sign is installed showing the hours of operation enforcement cannot occur
    - According to the tenants’ association across the street persons have been jumping the fence and entering the dog run at all hours
  - Issue needs to be resolved with better communication with dog run group