

Landmarks Preservation/Parks Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday June 5, 2013 at Broadway Housing, 135<sup>th</sup> and Riverside Drive  
Meeting called to order at 6:49pm approximately

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Chair), Gladys Tinsley, Jonathan Thomas, James Amodeo, Michael Wells

Public attendees: Michael Cogen RA, Emily Walker- New Yorkers for Parks Platform 2013

Presentations and discussions:  
Emily Walker of New Yorkers for Parks presented the:

**PARKS-PLATFORM 2013:**

We call upon the next mayor and administration to:

**OVERHAUL HOW THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IS FUNDED**

- 1) The Parks Department should have its own **discretionary capital budget**
- 2) The Parks Department's **maintenance budget should be increased**, and funding for core functions should be base lined-meaning automatically renewed-in its annual expense budget.
- 3) The Parks Department provides an **essential city service** and should be staffed accordingly.

**INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES.**

- 4) The Parks Department should know the cost to maintain every city park, as well as the amount of public and private funding that supports each
- 5) The Parks Department should adopt the best practices of other capital project agencies to improve its own process.
- 6) Organizations in public-private partnerships with the Parks Department should report annual revenues, expense and other critical financial information in a simple, consistent manner to be shared on the Department's website.

**RESTRICT AND STRONGLY REGULATE THE PROVITIZATION OF PARKLAND.**

- 7) Parkland alienation should not occur unless no other land is available to serve and essential public need.
- 8) \State and local laws regulating parkland alienation should be strengthened to require earlier and broader notification of alienation actions, and to mandate acre-for-acre replacement of lost parkland.

**INTEGRATE PARKS PLANNING INTO NEIGHBORHOOD, CITYWIDE AND RESILIENCY PLANNING.**

- 9) Parks are part of a broad network of public spaces, and City agencies should collaborate to maximize neighborhood open space and citywide environmental benefits.
- 10) The City should be more proactive in involving neighborhood residents in their parks, both as volunteer stewards and in planning for the future.

To endorse Parks Platform 2013, please visit: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/parks-platform-2013>

There was a lengthy and detailed discussion following the presentation regarding the components of the parks platform. Among the topics also discussed was the proposed legislation before the city council to change the manner that the parks budget is distributed. Community boards in Manhattan that have seen the platform presentation thus far are boards 4 and 12. Ms. Walker was invited by the committee to present at the general board meeting on the 20th

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Michael Cogen an architect for 290 Convent Avenue near 141<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cogen's client's residence is landmarked. Scope of the work proposed involves both interior and external modifications to the property. Owners acquired the property in April 2012. There are some external violations dating back to 2003 concerning lack of fencing or enclosures like the houses adjacent to it. The enclosure was apparently removed at some point. Windows in the front of the house are also in violation of LPC codes. Ornamental stone at the top of the house is also loose and needed to be wrapped up to prevent it from falling down on pedestrians. Interior modifications include the creation of a two bedroom apartment on the ground floor. The owner would also like to replace a rear wooden deck that is in disrepair. Architect needs a resolution of support from community board 9. There is a time limitation on the resolution. It needs to be passed before a July 6th meeting with the LPC.

Old Business:

Resolution in support of parks funding by WHDC was sent back to committee. Letter of support was recommended to be written in support of friends organizations of parks getting funding instead.

New Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm  
Submitted by Arnold Boatner