

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

Called to Order: 6:45PM

Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue - Ennead Architects

- Scope of the project includes the dome as well as a guard booth
- New copper dome on the crossing, an unfinished section of the cathedral which happens to be the world's largest Guastavino tile dome
 - Work includes new insulation as well as the new copper roofing
 - The grey membrane currently on the roof is in poor condition
 - Nave also had a copper roof
 - Guard rail will be included along edge of the arches of the crossing structure
 - Bright, shiny color of the copper will last only a year
 - Within 20 to 25 years the roof will patina to a copper green
 - The dome is itself in good condition, unlike the roofing
 - Nave side walls will incorporate copper as well to prevent water infiltration
- Replacement of existing guard booth with larger one with a copper roof
 - Existing one is too small and needs to incorporate monitors
 - New guard booth could accommodate 2 guards potentially, current guard booth only has one guard
- Construction will have very little impact to the Cathedral School and other neighbors - The Cathedral School has been made aware of this project
- Construction will not have much impact on the arts & cultural programming of the Cathedral
- Construction will take approximately 22 months if start date occurs in early Spring 2019
- \$14-15 million project - No donors, all funds came from the Cathedral itself

Temporary Art Installations at St. Nicholas Park and Riverside Park - Jennifer Lantzas, Deputy Director of Public Art

- **3 Art Installations at Riverside Park**
 - Located on the lawn area by the Hudson River on 145th Street, at the base of the sewage treatment facility structure (Riverbank State Park)
 - Description of the 3 art projects:
 - "Coming Ashore" - dedicated to the waves of immigrants who came to NYC
 - "Gea" - means "Mother Earth" in Ancient Greek | plays off the many large boulders on the site

- “Washed Ashore” - sculptural pieces made of black stainless steel mesh that mimic undulating wave forms
 - All these art projects are temporary, meaning that according to the law these art projects must come down after a year
 - Artists are part of the “Model to Monument” Program at the Art Students League - all of them are first time artists working at this scale
 - This is will be art installation opening in the Spring
 - Privately funded, no city money involved
- **Art Mural for Outdoor Basketball Court at St. Nicholas Park**
 - Located around 133rd Street and St. Nicholas Avenue
 - The title of the art mural is “CommUNITY Cities”
 - Work sponsored by the New York Knicks and SquareSpace
 - Project will include asphalt renovation, new hoops and backboards, wall reconstruction in addition to the art mural
 - No logo or branding will be incorporated in the artwork - signage will be posted noting the title of the work and the artist’s name, Laura Bohill
 - Project duration: April 2019 - April 2020

Rear Stair Addition at 429 West 146th Street - John Credendino, JCC Management

- JCC Management is a development expediting firm
- There will be no exterior changes to the facade except for the conversion of a window into a sliding door entryway to the new rear stair deck
- Rear staircase will be two stories tall as one family lives on the first floor/above ground basement and another family lives in the upper floors (2nd floor through 4th floor)
- Material: Black galvanized steel | deck will be a wood cedar color
- 1 to 2 weeks for construction
- The neighbors on either side of the building have been made aware of the project and have given their approval for it - “they are fully on board”
- Proposed rear addition, which is located mid-block, cannot be seen from street level except through a 15 foot wide opening along Convent Avenue

Memorial to “Gym Crow” Protestors - Suki Ports, Longtime Morningside Heights resident and 1968 activist who helped defeat the proposed gym

- Suki was arrested for standing in the way of the bulldozers way back in 1968
- According to Suki:
 - Arrogant, white shoe lawyer representing Columbia University insisted the facility could not be made available to the Harlem community because the ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.) would be storing weapons there

- The proposed gym facility was deliberately segregated and disconnected from the community
- Speaking to those who push back against the use of the name "Gym Crow" Suki says it is necessary because the entire project was blatantly racist
 - Outrageous for someone to say let's not aggravate anyone - they weren't the ones who sat in front of the bulldozers (all of whom are now dead) or who spent time in jail or getting arrested
 - No need to placate racism - distasteful to even consider it
 - "The situation was not nice. And no one made nice for us sitting in jail."
- Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee resolves:
 - We will not whitewash what happened
 - We will do right by the activists who helped defeat the proposed gym by telling the truth
 - No lies of omission and no minimizing of the racism involved
 - We thank Suki and everyone who was involved for their activism courage