

Minutes of the Committee on Preservation

13 September 10

After the adoption of the agenda and roll call, the Committee heard a presentation by Donald Friedman on the rehabilitation on PS 90. PS 90 is located on West 148th Street between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglas Boulevards. The old school is very near PS 186 which is on West 145th Street just off Amsterdam. Both buildings were built and designed by Charles Snyder in the early 1900's. Both were constructed in a similar style and both have been unused for over twenty years. PS 90 had no roof for several years while PS 186 still has a roof. PS 90 had its windows boarded while PS 186 has open windows. Both buildings had trees growing on the structure.

Friedman is an engineer for Old Structures Engineering and had the contract to rehabilitate the structure of PS 90 in its conversion to apartments.

He showed pictures of areas of deterioration in PS 90 and explained the process of rehabilitation of the old structure and then showed pictures of PS 186 and with similar problems.

Bottom line PS 186 is no different than PS 90. It can be rehabilitated and this work can be done economically. It is a question of will. It is not a question of physical structure. Claims of too far advanced degradation are not factual.

There was a discussion of a Reso to ask for the designation of Morningside Heights as a New York City Historic District. The Reso was approved by the Committee and was sent to the full Board for approval.

There was a report by Catherine Abate on a proposed new Historic District between 135th Street and 138th Streets and Broadway and Riverside Drive.

Assignments were made for support letters on 41 Convent Avenue and the Old Broadway Synagogue. The Committee wants to file for City Landmark destination for these two buildings next month.

Mr. and Mrs. Epstein discussed problems they are having with a building they own in the Hamilton Heights Historic District and the City's Landmarks Commission. The Committee offered some suggestions and offered to help in the process.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held 11 Oct 10 in Broadway Housing at 583 Riverside Drive at 6:30 p.m. Pizza will be served at 6:00