

CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2018

Called to Order: 6:55PM

- * Presenter Marin Architects, architects for 730 St. Nicholas Avenue, rescheduled for October 3rd due to a family emergency

Frank White Memorial Garden - ULURP for Property Acquisition

- DCAS is a co-applicant along with Parks
- Site selection and acquisition of Lot 146, adjacent to Lots 45 and 46 - all 3 lots are already used as a community garden
- CB9's 197a calls for the preservation of existing community gardens
- Fair market value estimated at around \$1,000,000 (Dept. of Finance assessed value may differ) - Church of God & Prophecy are the owners
- Towards the end of ULURP the property value is reassessed, which is common practice
- Dept. of Finance looks at the region whereas DCAS looks at lot specific value assessment
- The owner of record, the church, were the ones who reached out to the city
- Since no improvements have ever been made on the property the Dept. of Finance assessed value should be lower than the \$1,000,000 valuation
- End of ULURP process should occur around Fall 2019 after which the church gets a chance to deliberate
- Joint committee (HLUZ and LP&P) public hearing will be organized in October - Parks is obligated to inform the owners 5 days prior to any public hearing

Edgecombe Avenue Gardens

- Greenthumb gardens under Parks - received a grant from New Yorkers for Parks in 2004 - Robert Jackson dedicated \$200,000 towards the renovation of one of the gardens but funds were rescinded by Parks since they felt community gardens took away from priority projects in other areas
- No standing structure on the gardens since 1939 - sits on bedrock
- This October will be a benefit for Breast Cancer Awareness
- Gardens are in need of volunteers and an extensive renovation - The gardens must be renovated for the seniors, especially since seniors are not able to go to Jackie Robinson Park given all the stairs
- Residents in the adjacent buildings are throwing trash into the garden - one gentleman in particular is a known alcoholic and threw a glass bottle from his 5th floor SRO
- CB9 will work with Nina and Nora, the garden stewards, during the Participatory Budgeting process currently underway in Bill Perkins' District 9 - to generate more volunteers for the gardens a partnership with WeAct will be pursued - committee members will also volunteer

Riverside Park - 142nd Street Dog Run

- Riverside Park Conservancy gifted the space for use as a dog run
- The next closest dog runs are on 105th Street and 165th Street
- Renewed effort to gain permanent dog run status - trying to address concerns of loud dog barks and nighttime noises
- The 142 dog run group has been in discussion with landscape architects about designing a dog run with plantings that mitigate sound
- The official hours of operation are 8AM to dusk - dog run needs to be opened earlier - dog owners have been seen in the dog run as early as 6:30AM
- Dog run group feels the hours should be adjusted seasonally to conform with the work hours of dog owners - as we enter the Fall and Winter months dusk will arrive sooner and sooner each day
- Long term - dog run group wants the permanent construction of a dog run
- Response from 644 Riverside Drive Tenants' Association
 - They were not consulted about the dog run, it was imposed on them
 - Noise and dust kick up is a concern
 - Safety of children in the adjacent playground is a concern
 - TA member, Raymond, says the dog run affects his sleep schedule - has video evidence that Parks' officials are opening the dog run much earlier than 8AM
 - Offended they have to negotiate with an outside group of newcomers when they were never consulted from the beginning
- 142 Dog Run Group Response
 - Park area is not their front yard - it is a community space
 - Dog run supporters are willing and wanting to deal with all of the complaints and concerns of neighborhood residents
 - Receptive to dog run moving to another location - the dog run was originally intended for 151st Street where the Rotunda and Arcade area is
- Committee requests 142 dog run group sit down with 644 Riverside TA to discuss any outstanding issues and to invite the Chairs of the committee to sit in on their discussion - a face to face open dialogue is what's needed first

*** Heather, member of Friends of St. Nicholas Park, reports that homeless youth have been seen around the BBQ area around 129th Street and Hamilton Terrace and she wants to help in some way - Committee will follow up