

CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2020

Called to Order: 6:35PM

425-431 West 145th Street - Acheson Doyle Partners Architects, PC

- The building is the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church at the corner of Convent Avenue & 145th Street which is located within the Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill Historic District
- Application is to alter a railing and areaway, remove a special window and create a new entry for barrier-free access
- Scope of work includes the following:
 - Construct concrete ADA accessible ramp and brick curb wall with new gate entrance that will match the historic fencing (to be refurbished) on the south elevation facing 145th Street
 - New entryway will be created by removing a small window from the current vestibule and installing a new doorway
 - An ADA access switch will be added to this new side door entry
 - The wood door at the building's main entrance will be replaced with a traditional red painted plank arched doorway with hinges, which is consistent with the original design of the facade
 - Exterior signage on the corner of the fencing will be upgraded from a hanging banner to metal signage
 - Restoration of the South, West, North, and East Facades will involve: 1) scaping, priming, and repainting existing wood frame windows; 2) removing existing yellow paint from brick facade; 3) repointing the brick mortar; and 4) repairing brick facade where needed
- Stained glass artwork will be restored as well
- Windows will be refurbished, not replaced
- Rose window on the North Facade will be restored
- Conservative estimate for start date should be July 2020 with the exterior work wrapped up by Fall (November) - at this point the garden surrounding the church could be attended to and programmed with youth education activities/programs
- Landmarks Conservancy awarded Mt. Zion Lutheran Church a \$50,000 grant
- Chemical analysis will be forthcoming in verifying whether or not there is lead in the paint
- In addition to the work mentioned above in a separate scope of work a new boiler and a new air conditioning system will be installed which won't be visible - the condenser will meet with noise regulations
- New side door entry will match the red color of the new front door
- **Letter of Support unanimously passess**

Annunciation Playground - Kelvin McAllister, Founder of Uptown Inner City League

- Purpose of presentation is to report on the condition of the playground and identify much-needed improvements

- Seems unfair that many changes are happening around the playground (renovation of The Gatehouse, Aaron Davis Hall, Philip Randolph High School, etc.) but not the playground itself
- Safety mats beneath the jungle gym at the children's playground are protruding which is a potential tripping hazard
- Modern sprinklers should be installed instead of having kids play on the streets with fire hydrants
- The small bathhouse on the premises should have its interior renovated so it can be used for different kinds of programming and recreation activities
 - Additionally the railing has been severed and presents a hazardous condition
- The turf of the baseball field is thinning out and in need of repair - the patchwork repair jobs over the years have marred the beauty of the field
 - After 12 years it is time to revitalize the field
- Stadium lights should be installed so night games can be played
- Fencing needs to be upgraded as the patchwork repair jobs over the years make for an unsightly appearance
- Matt Genrich, our District Parks Manager, agrees to look at the hand railing issue
- Landmarks Preservation & Parks (LP&P) Committee, in addition to advocating on behalf of this playground during Bill Perkins' Participatory Budgeting process and placing this item high on our capital budget priority list, will write, in conjunction with Kelvin McAllister and other relevant parties (perhaps the principal of nearby P.S. 161) a letter to our Borough President and Councilman to put funds towards realizing the revitalization of Annunciation Playground

Public Announcements

- Anastasia Galkowski, North Park Outreach Coordinator for Riverside Park Conservancy
 - The pandemic has had a negative impact on already previously constrained Parks' budget
 - Over 300 Parks workers will lose their jobs in June
 - Urges us to sign and pass around the Play Fair petition circulated by Partnership for Parks to have parks and playgrounds in the city receive their fair share of the budget
 - Apart from a little light weeding and trash pick-up, volunteer programs took a pause to keep staff and the public safe
 - Sports camp has unfortunately been cancelled
 - However, the Summer on the Hudson programming will continue virtually with things like yoga, pilates, and other fitness programs

Omission Project

- In addition to awards of recognition it is decided by the LP&P Committee that there must be other ways to honor members of the community - it cannot just be honorific, but celebratory
 - A different approach must be taken to give recognition to the many volunteers and concerned residents who make the enjoyment and maintenance of parks possible - a day of recognition event with a community potluck is suggested as

well as an official letter from the committee's Chairs in order to honor these individuals