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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Manhattan Community Board Six
Parks, Landmarks and Cultural Affairs Committee
April 2, 2019 7:00 PM
433 First Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Pamela Vassil (Chair), Amelia Acosta, Matt Bondy, Adam Hartke, Aaron Humphrey, Rajesh Nayar, Reshma Patel, Kathy Thompson, Ronnie White, Samuel Albert, Dean Stefanides, Gary Papush

Excused: Mark Thompson

Absent: Martin Barrett

Guests: Lou Sepersky, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) Member, Jack Collins, East End Hockey Association, Bijan Haghnegahdar, Presenter; Seth Weine, Resident; Elizabeth McClure, Presenter; David Helpern, Presenter; Greg Young, Presenter; Celia Liu, Presenter; Jacob Smith, Resident; Elaine Cris Lone, Resident; Alex Ray, Presenter; Sara Newman, Council Member Keith Powers' office; Andy Tiao, Resident; Wesley Hamilton, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Caroline Kretz, Con Edison; Robert Siegel, Presenter; Alex Hart, Presenter; Frankie Cheung, Con Edison; Adrienne Weremchuk, Presenter; George Hubbard, Resident; Jackie Peu-Duvallon, Presenter; Jeffrey Zellan, Resident

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes

Chair Pamela Vassil called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Chair Vassil made motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

Chair Vassil made motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Certificate of Appropriateness to modify 209 East 16th Street, in order to redesign the play area

Alex Hart, Adrienne Weremchuk, and Bijan Haghnegahdar from Dirtworks PC presented on the Certificate of Appropriateness.

The Jack and Jill Playground at St. George's Episcopal Church is a historic landmark. It is a midblock property visible from the street. It is quite important as it relates to the church building, as it has been the church's yard and a playground since the 1960's.

The dragon sculpture there was installed in the 1960's. It was progressive for its time but now has a lot of safety issues; therefore, there is a need to remove it.

The goal is to have an open and fluid space that is fun for the kids and aesthetically appropriate for the Church and the neighborhood. It is a private space that is well-maintained by the parish and not open to the public. The playground itself should last at least 20 years; slides would wear out before the rest of the playground but are still expected to last about 15 years. The sculpture will be replaced with a dense, hardy wood structure that will last at least 10 years.

The playground isn't fully accessible as it was built before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They will put in a ramp that will meet code; as a result, everything will be accessible except one piece for some children. The church still needs to finish fundraising for the redesign so they are looking at a 3-6 month time frame.

Aaron Humphrey made a motion to approve. Samuel Albert seconded the motion.

Vote: 10 In favor 0 opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #2: Certificate of Appropriateness to modify 2 Sniffen Court, in order to install a new exterior bracket sign to display the name of a firm in that building

Celia Liu and Greg Young from Fairfax & Sammons Architecture presented on the Certificate of Appropriateness.

Sniffen Court is two carriage houses built in the 1860's. An architecture firm has moved into 156 East 36th Street (2 Sniffen Court) and they said that they'd like to add a sign to display the name of the firm. Sniffen Court is bounded by a wrought iron gate that all residents have a key to. It would be a wooden sign situated 10 feet from the ground. They are looking to keep the display simple so as to not intrude on the character the building.

Committee Member Aaron Humphrey asked if other businesses have similar signs. The firm said no, as it is mostly residential. They are the only-mixed use building in that area, so there are not many signs.

Vote: 8 In favor 0 Opposed 2 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #3: Certificate of Appropriateness to modify 275 Madison Avenue, in order to replace the existing metal-and-glass windows, skylight, and north terrace door

Alex Ray and Robert Siegel from Robert Siegel Architects spoke on the Certificate of Appropriateness.

275 Madison Avenue is a landmark building from 1931. The architects are looking to replace existing windows on top of the building. The architects said they want to change the windows from poorly performing sliders to insulated windows that are clearer and not tinted like now. The top floor is a corporate apartment.

The windows are of poor quality and they will be replacing them with new windows that will reduce the greenhouse effect on the top floor. The current sliders are cheesy like what you would find in a trailer house.

Vote: 12 in favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #4: Certificate of Appropriateness to modify 4 Irving Place, in order to replace windows

Jackie Peu-Duvallon from Jacqueline Peu-Duvallon Historic Preservation Consulting, LLC, as well as Elizabeth McClure and David Helpern from Helpern Architects, presented on the Certificate of Appropriateness.

The presenters who talked about the proposed project at 4 Irving Place said that they are proposing to change windows so that they are all one window color. Currently, there is more than one color of window at the building. Most windows at the building are bronze, which was why they went with the color bronze. Nearly all of the windows from the 3rd floor up are bronze. Below the third floor is all cast iron. Additionally, many of the windows are damaged, so they had no choice but to replace the windows. It will be a very expensive project, so it will be done in phases. The Landmarks Preservation Commission gives projects six years, so six years is the time frame for this project.

CB6 Member Lou Sepersky asked if all of the windows will be replaced with windows made of actual bronze material. The answer is no—they will be replaced with aluminum painted in bronze because now it is too expensive to do it all in bronze. They will need a public hearing to replace bronze with aluminum.

Committee Member Aaron Humphrey asked if this project includes the public space at the bottom of the building. The answer is no, but that is in the works. It is a different project because it is cast iron.

Vote: 12 in favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstain 0 Not entitled

Agenda Item #5: Report from the Department of Parks and Recreation

Wesley Hamilton, District 6 Parks Manager, gave his report.

He said that work at Sutton Place Park work is coming along. Completion is expected in early June.

Chair Vassil read an email that was sent asking about the plants in Glick Park. The park will open by the summer, and they will be weeding the park as it warms up.

Recreation updates:

- They are partnering with Council Member Ben Kallos' office in planning to offer multiple free evening events, movie nights, and music events in parks throughout the summer.
- There will be a Paint the Mobile Mural event on April 6th at Asser Levy.
- There will be a Fitness Expo at Asser Levy on April 26th and a Golden Games senior sporting event at Asser Levy on May 22nd. All event flyers will be online.

Chair Vassil shared the good news that the two gates at Detmold Park have been measured and will be installed soon.

Chair's Report

Chair Vassil waved her report.

Old/New Business

Sara Newman from Council Member Keith Powers office, discussed Participatory Budgeting and asked that people vote online or in person by 4/7.

Chair Vassil discussed Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) and said that Committee members will need to check out 5 POPS and write down comments on them.

Committee Member Aaron Humphrey asked that it include opening and closing times for each of the POPS. Committee Member Samuel Albert suggested there be a checklist for inspecting the POPS.

CB6 Member Lou Sepersky mentioned Comptroller Scott Stringer's POPS survey from two years ago.

It was also mentioned that when this review was done by CB6 four years ago, members took photos of all the POPS.

Adjournment

Chair Vassil made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Samuel Albert. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Reshma Patel