

FRIENDS



OF THE UPPER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

20 East 69th Street, #4B New York, NY 10021

(212) 535-2526 · Fax: (212) 535-2155

May 3, 2011

Alina Rosenthal
First President
(1982-1991)

Board of Directors
Anne L. Millard
President

Tony Rosenthal
Noratory Chairman
(1991-2009)

Rita C. Chu
David I. Karabell
Annie Macrae
Gretchen Siebel
Vice Presidents
Kelley Anderson
Treasurer
Franny Eberhart
Secretary

Kent L. Barwick
Christina R. Davis
Andrew S. Dolkart
Michael Goldfrank III
Erin Gray
Huyler C. Held
Thomas Jayne
William Judson
John A. Kamas
David L. Levinson
Mimi Levitt
Hermes Mallea
Joyce Matz
Alice McGown
Deric S. Papert
Judith Price
Robert C. Quinlan
Genie Rice
Dora Schlesinger
Tricia B. Selch
Andrew P. Steffan
Michael B. Strickler,
Jr.
Cecilia F. Sullivan
Robert W. Wellington

**Landmarks Preservation Commission
Certificate of Appropriateness Hearing
Testimony by Tara Kelly**

Re: Cherry Hill Concourse, Central Park

Mr. Chair and Honorable Commissioners:

Cherry Hill Concourse is a former carriage concourse and surrounding landscape and pathways, within an English Romantic style public park designed by Olmsted and Vaux in 1856. The application is to replace paving, furnishings, and landscaping.

FRIENDS' Preservation Committee appreciates the care and effort that the Central Park Conservancy has put into this proposal. While some of us feel that it should be approved as presented, the majority of our committee is not convinced that there is any pressing need to undertake such a drastic renovation of the Cherry Hill Concourse. Although it is not original, the 1980s patterned brick is pleasant and attractive. The application sacrifices this distinctive detailing to address functionality problems that are not entirely evident.

Our committee finds some aspects of this proposal to be an improvement on the current state of the concourse, including the new berms and plantings that create more distinct pedestrian pathways. Also, the resin bound aggregate is an interesting new material which could be used to replace the existing asphalt. We are confident that the application can be modified to create a design that retains the intricate brickwork while also improving the use of the concourse. We respectfully ask the Commission to work with the Central Park Conservancy to see that these changes are successfully implemented.

Thank you.