



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
 1 CENTRE STREET 9TH FLOOR NORTH NEW YORK NY 10007
 TEL: 212 669-7700 FAX: 212 669-7780



ADVISORY REPORT

ISSUE DATE: 07/27/2006	DOCKET #: 07-0663	CRA #: CRA 07-0710	
ADDRESS RIVERSIDE PARK <u>Riverside Park & Riverside Drive</u> SCENIC LANDMARK		BOROUGH: MANHATTAN	BLOCK/LOT: 1897/19

To the Mayor, the Council, and the Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation

This report is issued pursuant to Sections 3020 and 854 (h) of the New York City Charter and Section 25-318 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which require a report from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for certain plans for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition of any improvement or proposed improvement which is owned by the City or is to be constructed upon property owned by the City and is or is to be located on a landmark site or in a historic district or which contains an interior landmark.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, at the Public Meeting of July 18, 2006, following the Public Hearing of the same date, voted to issue a favorable report for a proposal to modify two playgrounds at West 117th Street and West 118th Street, as put forward in your application completed on June 15, 2006.

The proposal, as approved, consists of the removal of Moses-era benches and playground equipment, alterations to perimeter fencing; the removal and replacement of asphalt hex-pavers and curbing; and the installation of new "hoof" benches, playground equipment, and fencing to match the 2' "Type C" metal pipe rail fence and 3' steel panel fence found at the site; and asphalt hex pavers. The proposal was shown on undated presentation boards labeled 1 through 6, consisting of existing condition photographs and existing and proposed condition site plans, submitted by the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation.

In reviewing this proposal the Commission noted that the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark designation report describes Riverside Park as an English-Romantic style park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1873-75, with modifications and additions built in 1934-37 designed by Clifton Lloyd and Gilmore Clarke.

With regard to this proposal, the Commission found that the existing playground design to be altered is not a significant feature of the scenic landmark; that the proposed fencing will match existing fencing found throughout the park and will be harmonious with the park's character; that the proposed furnishings and pavements are typical of playgrounds in the park and will not detract from the surrounding landscape; that the playgrounds at this portion of the park typically utilize elements of both the Olmsted and Moses eras, therefore, the combination of the proposed elements, including two different fence designs, 19th century "hoof" benches and Moses era paving will be in keeping with the design of the existing playgrounds at this portion of the park; and that the proposed work will not detract from the significant architectural and historic character of the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark. Based on these findings, the proposed work is determined to be appropriate to the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark and voted to approve it.

However, in voting to approve this proposal, the Commission required that a reduced set of the presentation and two complete sets of drawings be submitted for review and approval by the staff of the Commission. Subsequently, on July 20, 2006, the staff received a reduced set of the presentation and drawings labeled L1, L2, F1, F2, D1, and P1 through P3, all dated May 12, 2006 prepared by Margaret C. Bracken of the Department of Parks & Recreation. Accordingly the staff reviewed these drawings and determined that the approved design had been maintained. These drawings have been marked approved by the LPC with a perforated seal, and this report is being issued.

This permit is issued on the basis of the building and site conditions described in the application and disclosed during the review process. By accepting this permit, the applicant agrees to notify the Commission if the actual building or site conditions vary or if original or historic building fabric is discovered. The Commission reserves the right to amend or revoke this permit, upon written notice to the applicant, in the event that the actual building or site conditions are materially different from those described in the application or disclosed during the review process.

All approved drawings are marked approved by the Commission with a perforated seal indicating the date of approval. The work is limited to what is contained in the perforated documents. Other work or amendments to this filing must be reviewed and approved separately. The applicant is hereby put on notice that performing or maintaining any work not explicitly authorized by this permit may make the applicant liable for criminal and/or civil penalties, including imprisonment and fines. This report constitutes the permit; a copy must be prominently displayed at the site while work is in progress. Please direct inquiries to Jared Knowles.

Robert B. Tierney
Chair

cc: Sarah Carroll, Director of Preservation/LPC; Margaret Bracken, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation