



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
North Meadow Center, Central Park Scenic Landmark  
June 28, 2022**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the North Meadow Center, a building constructed in 1910 within Central Park, an English English Romantic style public park designed in 1857 by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux. The application is to modify masonry openings, replace infill, and install retaining walls, storage enclosures, paving and fencing.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee received a preview presentation of this application on June 22nd, which clarified many finer grain questions about this application. Following discussion, we have nominal concerns about fully supporting this proposal.

Providing for the needs of park maintenance is essential. We support the environmental goals of upgrading to an electric service fleet and appreciate the related infrastructure this change will require. Although not in the presentation, we understand that the wiring will be provided to charging stations below grade and the stations themselves will be 4" square posts that rise 30" tall.

Understanding these efforts lead our Committee to further consider sustainability. Central Park serves as the lungs of Manhattan, and the Conservancy is in a unique position to raise the standards for the Parks Department to adopt. We hope that in the future, projects may consider the incorporation of solar panels, grey water recycling, and the eventual adoption of more permeable paving solutions as standard practice. There are many eyes on Central Park and increased visibility of sustainable practices will influence others in their design decisions as well.

Our one hesitation in fully supporting this application is the codification of trailer units for everyday storage. Clearly not original to the park, and intended as temporary solutions, these itinerant shipping containers are more at home on a barge ship or industrial port rather than as fixed elements in a world-class scenic landmark. We would hope a more appropriate solution for the storage of rakes and shovels could be devised.

The Landmark West! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee otherwise found this proposal a public benefit on all levels, and supports approval.

Thank You.