



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

January 7, 2009/Calendar No. 11

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IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated November 24th, 2008 from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the Red Hook Play Center (Sol Goldman Pool), located at 155 Bay Street (Block 582, Lot 1), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on November 18, 2008 (Designation List 407/LP-2241), Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 6.

Pursuant to Section 3020.8(b) of the City Charter, the City Planning Commission shall submit to the City Council a report with respect to the relation of any designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, whether of an historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for development, growth, improvement, or renewal of the area involved.

The designation of the Red Hook Play Center (Sol Goldman Pool) includes the bathhouse, swimming pool, former diving (now wading) pool, bleachers, comfort station, storage house, perimeter brick and steel fencing, and landscaped seating areas flanking the northern end of the pool complex.

The Red Hook Play Center occupies the block bounded by Henry, Lorraine, Clinton and Bay Streets in the Red Hook Section of Brooklyn. It is one of a group of eleven immense outdoor swimming pools constructed between 1934 and 1937 under Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Parks Commissioner Robert Moses, constructed with funds provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Red Hook Play Center opened in the summer of 1936.

While each of the pool complexes is notable for its distinctive and unique design, this pool shares many of the same basic components with the other ten facilities, such as low-cost building materials and streamlined and curvilinear forms of the popular 1930s Art Moderne style. Each were built with separate swimming, diving, and wading pools and a large bath house with locker

room sections that doubled as gymnasiums in non-swimming months.

The Red Hook Play Center was designed for 4,462 visitors at a time and features a long, low C-shaped bathhouse design that emphasizes the characteristically horizontality of the Art Moderne style, accentuated by horizontal bands of windows, contrasting cast-stone coping, and long cast-stone sills and lintels.

The sharp, elemental quality of the monumental arches and buttresses that dominate the three primary bath house facades presents a distinctly modern interpretation of classical architectural forms, while the rounded door and window jambs, gently sloping buttresses, and stepped brickwork are characteristic of the Art Moderne style.

The designated landmark building is located within designated parkland. Therefore, Sections 74-79 and 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution are not applicable. The Commission notes that since the landmark is city-owned, the Landmarks Preservation Commission would issue an advisory report rather than a permit for any proposed alteration to the building.

The subject landmark designation does not conflict with the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements or any plans for development, growth, improvement or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark.

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