



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

August 21, 2013 / Calendar No. 39

N 140003 HKQ

IN THE MATTER OF a communication dated July 8, 2013 from the Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the Forest Park Carousel, within Forest Park, 83-98 Woodhaven Boulevard (Block 3866, Lot 70) by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on June 25, 2013 (List No. 465/ LP No. 2528), Borough of Queens, Community Districts 5, 6, and 9.

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 a historic district or a landmark, to the Zoning Resolution, projected public improvements, and any plans for the development, growth, improvement, or renewal of the area involved.

On June 25, 2013 the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) designated the Forest Park Carousel, within Forest Park at 83-98 Woodhaven Boulevard (Block 3866, Lot 70), as a city landmark.

The Forest Park Carousel, located within Forest Park near Woodhaven Boulevard in central Queens, contains 46 wood horses and three menagerie animals, arranged in three rows at two levels. Two of the horses are attributed to the prolific Brooklyn carver Charles Carmel, and another to William Dentzel, who employed Daniel C. Muller and his brother as carvers beginning in the mid 1880's. There are also two chariots with bench seating and an ornate band organ, manufactured in Germany by A. Ruth & Sohn. All but three of the carousel's wood figures are generally believed to have been carved by Daniel C. Muller & Brother in 1903 or 1910. A leading member of the Philadelphia school of carousel carving, this firm's highly realistic work is celebrated for its expressive anatomical detail and unusual attention to military fittings. Frederick Fried, a pioneering expert on American folk art and a co-founder of the National Carousel Association, described Muller's figures as "the best carved and most magnificent." Of the estimated 12 to 16 carousels produced by Daniel C. Muller & Brother, only two are known to remain in operation. The Forest Park Carousel is, consequently, one of this

firm's last surviving works, as well as an exemplary example of American carousel carving and design.

Previously installed in Lakeview, an amusement park in Dracut, northeast Massachusetts, the carousel was acquired by the Connecticut architect Victor F. Christ-Janer who sold it to Restaurant Associates, the park's concessionaire, in 1971. Christ-Janer also designed the modernist pavilion which housed the carousel. The pavilion has a conical roof that rests on evenly-spaced piers. When the security gates are raised, the roof appears to almost float above the carousel. Dedicated in November 1973, Muller's carousel welcomed riders until about 1985. A subsequent restoration by Marvin Sylvor of the Fabricon Design Group was mostly completed in 1990. At this time, various fiberglass elements were added to the projecting cornice that encircles the wood and steel pavilion. The 18 rounding board panels were replaced with colorful murals of Queens sites and scenery by artist Jonathan Lev in 2002. These improvements reflect the types of decoration that are found on many historic carousels.

The landmark site is located within Forest Park, and it is therefore not subject to zoning. There are no development rights which are available for transfer pursuant to Section 74-49. All landmarks designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission are eligible to apply for use and bulk waivers pursuant to Section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution.

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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