



Date:	12/10/2019
LPC Docket #:	LPC-20-04168
LPC Action:	Approved
Action required by other agencies:	Multiples
Permit Type:	ADVISORY REPORT

**Address:** Harlem Meer-110th Street and Lenox Avenue, Central Park

**Borough:** Manhattan

**Block:** 1111      **Lot:** 1

**Historic District:** Scenic Landmark

**Description:** An ice-skating rink and swimming pool, known as the Louis D. Lasker Memorial Pool and Rink, designed in 1963 by Fordyce & Hamby Associates and constructed within the northern section of Central Park, an English Romantic style public park designed in 1856 by Olmsted and Vaux. Application is to demolish structures and construct a new building and pool/rink, alter the landscape, and install a pergola and boardwalk.

### COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission NOTED that an interconnected waterway system, set within a naturalistic landscaping, was part of the original design of the northern section of Central Park, which included a surface level stream, connecting the Ravine and Harlem Meer; and that in the 1960s, the stream was diverted below ground in conjunction with the construction of the existing rink/pool and associated building.

Pursuant to Section 25-318 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Commission VOTED TO ISSUE A POSITIVE REPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL, finding:

- that the existing pool/rink and associated building are not original to the park or significant later alterations and do not possess significant architectural features or relate well to the surrounding naturalistic landscaping;
- that the demolition of these existing structures will facilitate returning a surface level stream between the Ravine and the Harlem Meer, restoring continuity to the waterway system, a significant, naturalistic feature of this scenic landmark;
- that the new stream will closely recall the historic stream in terms of its general location, connections to the larger water bodies, naturalistic shorelines, and curvilinear footprint;
- that the placement of the stream, slightly west of the original stream location, will facilitate maintaining a pool/rink within this section of the park, without detracting from the stream's relationship to the adjoining waterbodies or the surrounding historic landscaping;
- that the presence of a pool/rink, with a supporting building and associated structures, will be in keeping with the historic provisions for active recreation facilities present within the park;
- that the specific siting of these installations will largely align with areas previously altered by the construction of the existing structures and will be consistent with the early development of this portion of the park as an area for active recreation, including ice skating;
- that the new building will be set into the side of an existing hill, with only a small portion of this structure extending higher than the hill, thereby helping to limit views of the building, within the context of the surrounding historic landscaping;
- that the gently curved footprints of the rink/pool, building, pergola and boardwalk will help these installations to harmonize with the surrounding naturalistic landscaping;
- that the presence of the building overhang and pergola will recall, in a contemporary way, the historic wood shelters and structures found in select locations throughout the park;
- that the boardwalk will only occupy a small percentage at the edge of the Harlem Meer and will enhance public use of this section of the park by permitting greater access to the water's edge and facilitating a return of ice skating, a historic recreational use, at this waterbody;
- that the dark finish, thin wire mesh and irregularly oriented and widely spaced posts of the perimeter fencing will help it to remain a discreet presence and minimize obstructions to views of the surrounding landscaping;
- that the simple design and detailing of the building, pergola, fencing, railings, boardwalk and deck paving will help the individual elements and overall complex to remain unified and secondary in relation to the surrounding historic landscaping;
- that the masonry, wood and metal materials and predominantly brown and gray finish palette for the complex will be in keeping with the materials and finish palette commonly used at structures throughout the park and not draw undue attention to the complex;



Date:	12/10/2019
LPC Docket #:	LPC-20-04168
LPC Action:	Approved
Action required by other agencies:	Multiples
Permit Type:	ADVISORY REPORT

-that the proposed asphalt pathways will be consistent with the existing surrounding pathway system in terms of material, finish, width, spacing and curvilinear footprint;

-that the cumulative effect of the work will not result in increasing the amount of paving;

-that the removal of trees will be limited to the minimum number necessary and not result in a significant reduction of the overall number of mature trees within this portion of the park;

-that the work will not eliminate any significant landscape features or disrupt any extant prominent vistas and will help to reestablish prominent views of the landscaping in keeping with the historic design of this section of the park;

-that the cumulative effect of the site work will help return a more naturalistic topography to the area, which is characteristic of this section of the park, while also improving drainage, barrier free access, and the protection of ecologically sensitive areas;

-and that the proposed work will support and enhance the significant historic and naturalistic character of the Central Park Scenic Landmark.

**VOTE:**

Present: Sarah Carroll, Adi Shamir-Baron, Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Wellington Chen, Michael Devonshire, Michael Goldblum, John Gustafsson, Jeanne Lutfy, Anne HolFord Smith, Everardo Jefferson

11-0-0

In Favor = S.Carroll, A.Shamir-Baron, F.Bland, D.Chapin, W.Chen, M.Devonshire, M.Goldblum, J.Gustafsson, J.Lutfy, A.HolFord Smith, E.Jefferson

Oppose =

Abstain =

Recuse =

Please note that these "Commission Findings" are a summary of the findings related to the application. This is NOT a permit or approval to commence any work. No work may occur until the Commission has issued a Certificate of Appropriateness, which requires review and approval of Department of Buildings filing drawings and/or other construction drawings related to the approved work. In addition, no work may occur until the work has been reviewed and approved by other City agencies, such as the Department of Buildings, as required by law