



## **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**

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September 5, 2007/Calendar No. 18

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**IN THE MATTER OF** a communication dated July 31, 2007, from the Chief of Staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the landmark designation of the McCarren Play Center, located in McCarren Park (Block 2696, Lot 1), by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on July 24, 2007 (Designation List 394/LP-2244), Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 1.

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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.

On June 24, 2007, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the McCarren Play Center as a city landmark. The landmark includes the bathhouse, main pool, diving and wading pools, lifeguard station, control room, filter house, and nearby grounds.

The McCarren Play Center is the largest of a group of eleven immense outdoor swimming pools opened in the Summer of 1936 in a series of grand ceremonies presided over by, then Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses. It was constructed with funds provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the many New Deal agencies.

The McCarren Play Center occupies the southern and central portions of a block bounded by Driggs and Manhattan avenues and Leonard, Bayard, and Lorimer streets in McCarren Park between the Greenpoint and Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn. Surrounding uses include park to the west and north, a school to the east, and predominantly residential uses to the south.

The McCarren Play Center employed the streamlined curvilinear forms of the Art Moderne and Modern Classical styles to create a monumental public space using the low-cost building materials required by WPA. The central architectural element in the center is the bathhouse,

featuring a square central entrance pavilion with a monumental arch and an Art Moderne ticket booth at its center.

The McCarren Play Center was closed in 1983 and remained vacant until 2005. Since then it has been used as a temporary performance venue. The Center is expected to be rehabilitated as a recreation space in the future.

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.

There are no projected public improvements or plans for development, growth, improvement, or renewal in the vicinity of the landmark 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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