

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING &
MARITIME USES

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July 27, 2010
Start: 11:30am
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HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Daniel J. Halloran III
Rosie Mendez
Annabel Palma
James Sanders, Jr.
Jumaane D. Williams

A P P E A R A N C E S

Jennie Fernandez
Director of Intergovernmental & Community Relations
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Michael Bradley
High Line Administrator
Parks Department

Joshua David
Co-founder
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Edward Kirkland
Representative
Manhattan Community Board #4

Karen Jacob
Volunteer Docent
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Jane Cowen
Educational Consultant
Friends of the High Line

Jan Levy
Supporter
Friends of the High Line

Peter Mullan
Vice President for Planning and Design
Friends of the High Line

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Good morning,
3 great to see a full house today, thank you all for
4 coming out. I'm Council Member Brad Lander, Chair
5 of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting
6 and Maritime Uses of the Landmarks Committee of
7 the City Council, joined today by Council Member's
8 Annabel Palma, Maria Del Carmen Arroyo, Jumaane
9 Williams and Rosie Mendez. We have two items on
10 the calendar today. We will try to quickly
11 dispatch the one that most of you are not here on,
12 which is the Springs Mills Building, and then
13 we'll move promptly to the High Line.

14 MALE VOICE: (inaudible).

15 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Yes, you can.
16 And yes, for members, we will be voting on both of
17 these afterwards. For what it's worth, just for
18 the Council Members and everyone, we have, you
19 know, a few ... quite a few people who have signed
20 up in favor of the High Line who are not speaking,
21 a decent stack of people who have signed up in
22 favor and have asked to speak, no one who has
23 signed up in opposition, either to speak or not to
24 speak. So that's the kind of hearing that we like
25 to have. It may mean that I encourage a few of

2 you who have signed up to speak, to think about
3 whether you can register your support in ways
4 other than speaking. But, so that we can get this
5 done as quickly as we can. But we are excited
6 about it, so we want to capture that enthusiasm as
7 well. So we'll move quickly to our first item,
8 which is 20105584 HKM, the landmark being the
9 Springs Mills Building in the Speaker's district,
10 and I invite Jennie Fernandez from the LPC up to
11 present it.

12 MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
13 Lander and members of the Subcommittee, good
14 morning, my name is Jennie Fernandez, Director of
15 Intergovernmental and Community Relations for
16 Landmarks Preservation Commission. I'm here today
17 to testify on the Commission's designation of the
18 Springs Mills Building in Manhattan. On November
19 17th, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission
20 held a hearing on the proposed designation as a
21 landmark of the Springs Mills Building. Four
22 people spoke in favor of designation, including
23 representatives of the owner, New York State
24 Assembly member Richard N. Gottfried, the Historic
25 Districts Council, and Doko Momo, New York Tri

2 State. On April 13th, 2010, the Commission voted
3 to designate the building a New York City
4 individual landmark. The Springs Mills Building
5 is a 21-story office tower located in midtown
6 Manhattan on a mid-block site close to Bryant Park
7 and just south of Times Square. Constructed in
8 1961 through 1963 for a leading American textile
9 manufacturer, it rises from an irregular L-shaped
10 lot that connects West 39th and 40th Streets. At
11 the time of construction, many businesses
12 associated with the textile industry were
13 migrating from lower Manhattan to the Garment
14 District. Springs Cotton Mills was founded in
15 1914 when Leroy Springs assumed control of the
16 Fort Mill Manufacturing Company. A New York sales
17 office was established by 1946, and in subsequent
18 years the company became the largest producer of
19 sheets and pillowcases in the United States.
20 Harrison and Abramovitz, who designed many notable
21 buildings following the Second World War, served
22 as architect. Though Max Abramovitz was the
23 partner in charge of the project, it was mostly
24 designed by Charles H. Abbe. The bulding's
25 elongated configuration allows sunlight to reach

2 what would have normally been lot-light windows on
3 the upper floors. This unusual massing gives the
4 structure and distinctive identity. The Springs
5 Mills Building was completed in 1963, marking the
6 company's 75th anniversary. Like numerous
7 structures erected in Manhattan by major
8 corporations during this period, many floors were
9 occupied by outside tenants, including a large
10 number in the textile industry. Sold by Springs
11 Industries in 1999, its successor firm, Springs
12 Global remained a significant tenant. The Springs
13 Mills Building is a well-preserved example of the
14 mid-20th century glass curtain wall skyscraper and
15 one of the finest corporate works designed by
16 Harrison and Abramovitz in New York City. The
17 Commission urges you to affirm this designation.

18 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very
19 much for your testimony. Do any members of the
20 Committee have any questions on this? All right,
21 you've been outstandingly thorough and answered
22 all our questions in your testimony. Thank you
23 for the report, and the Speaker, the community
24 board and the borough president and the Speaker,
25 who is the local member here, all are supporters

2 of this package, so thank you.

3 MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
4 Lander, and thanks for letting us go first, since
5 we'll get back to our hearing.

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Our pleasure.
7 As you know, you have many friends in the room,
8 who want you to be happy when they come to see you
9 the next time. So they'll remind you that they
10 agreed to let you go first. Great, all right, so
11 we will now move on to our next action, which we
12 are hearing in our public siting capacity, not our
13 landmarks capacity, which is how we usually act.
14 This is Land Use #151, application #C100180 PCM,
15 an application from the Department of Parks and
16 Recreation and the Department of Citywide
17 Administrative Services for the site selection and
18 acquisition of the High Line rail structure and
19 easements, bounded by West 30th, West 34th and 12th
20 Avenues for use as a public open space, which
21 we've already really had a very concrete chance to
22 start envisioning and walking. And so we are very
23 excited to be hearing and acting on it today. And
24 so we'll invite Michael Bradley from the Parks
25 Department to come in and present it. If you push

2 your button, it looks like it's on, but it's
3 tricking you.

4 MR. BRADLEY: Thank you. Good
5 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the
6 Subcommittee, my name is Michael Bradley and I'm
7 the High Line Project Administrator for New York
8 City Parks and Recreation. I'm here to briefly
9 outline the history and current status of the High
10 Line, describe the action before you today, to
11 authorize the city's acquisition of the remaining
12 portion of the High Line that is not yet city-
13 owned. As you know, the High Line is a former
14 elevated rail track in the meat market and Chelsea
15 neighborhoods, which the city is converting into a
16 public park. It was originally constructed by the
17 New York Central Railroad in the 1930's, to remove
18 freight train traffic from the city streets below,
19 and the last train ran in the early 1980's with a
20 load of frozen turkeys. In 2002, after Mayor
21 Bloomberg was first elected, he reversed city
22 policy, which had allowed the High Line's
23 demolition and instead backed a plan to convert it
24 to a park. In 2005, the city acquired a one mile
25 portion of the High Line from Gansevoort to West

2 30th Street, from the Central successor, CSX
3 Transportation, as part of the Federal Rails to
4 Trails program. In 2006, Parks and the City
5 Economic Development Corporation began
6 construction on the first half mile segment, from
7 Gansevoort to 20th Street. The park opened to the
8 public in June, 2009, and has since been visited
9 by over two million people, from around the corner
10 and around the world, literally. The number of
11 languages you hear on the High Line is staggering.
12 The park is operated and immaculately maintained
13 by Friends of the High Line, under a license
14 agreement with the Parks Department, which is
15 under overall Parks supervision, with Parks
16 responsible for security and long-term
17 maintenance. The second half mile section, from
18 20th to 30th Street, is under construction and will
19 open next spring. We consider, and I think, I
20 hope that this is universally held, that the High
21 Line is an unqualified success, both as a
22 beautiful signature open space, which is unlike
23 anything else in the country, and almost the
24 world, and as part of a sustainable integrated
25 urban policy that is adaptively re-use an

2 industrial historic structure to revitalize and
3 knit together the lower West Side. The final half
4 mile of the High Line, from West 30th to 34th
5 Streets, was not acquired in the original 2005
6 action, because at that time the zoning and re-use
7 of the Hudson Rail Yards from 30th to 33rd Streets
8 was still undetermined. Now that the rail yards
9 have been rezoned and the contract has been
10 executed between the MTA and the developer of the
11 related companies, the city is now able to proceed
12 with the ULURP for site selection of the High
13 Line. That action is only a first step, but is a
14 necessary precondition to allow the city to
15 acquire this last section of the High Line from
16 CSX. Once this ULURP is approved, the city will
17 be able to negotiate this acquisition with CSX,
18 the MTA, the related companies and with the New
19 York Convention Center Corporation, which owns the
20 underlying land in the last block, from 33rd to 34th
21 Street. Should this negotiation be successfully
22 concluded, and we certainly hope and imagine that
23 it will be, the city would then need to identify
24 funds for the design and construction of this
25 section and go through public reviews and

2 approvals for the park's design, as well as
3 coordinate the design and construction of the
4 adjacent development around it. And we haven't ...
5 there's no current timetable for all of that.
6 Thank you very much, and I'm happy to answer any
7 questions you may have. Just before you ask any
8 questions, let me just point out what we're
9 discussing here. This is the section- -

10 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Speak into the
11 mic.

12 MR. BRADLEY: The section in brown
13 is the subject of the action, with the exception
14 of the little piece that's over 10th Avenue to the
15 far right, which the city actually already owns.
16 The section two of the High Line, which is under
17 construction, is just below this, and you can see
18 it in sort of the dark gray there, and here. It
19 looks like this today, that's what all of the High
20 Line looked like before we started.

21 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Great, thank
22 you for the testimony, I have a couple of
23 questions, and then we'll see if - We've been
24 joined by Council Member Dan Halloran - see if my
25 colleagues do as well. First, I want to say, you

2 know, thanks to the people in the room, you know,
3 you, those in front of me, those behind me, who
4 have spent a lot of time working on this project.
5 You know, I've had a chance to be up on the High
6 Line a couple of times and it is really
7 magnificent, you know, and to really realize, I
8 think to have this kind of dream envisioned and
9 then to see it come together is wonderful. So
10 congratulations, it's exciting to be taking
11 beginnings of the next step, though, as you
12 outlined, we still have a lot of work ahead of us,
13 but it's great to be able to really officially and
14 publicly be taking the next step. One thing that
15 I especially like about having this come before us
16 in this way at this moment, and that it's the
17 Parks Department presenting it, is in contrast to
18 the wonderful new park in my neck of the woods,
19 Brooklyn Bridge Park, which is a similarly
20 development-connected complex acquisition, but on
21 which no one is coming to us to ask for site
22 selection and acquisition, despite the fact that
23 it's being talked about in the media as though the
24 city were acquiring a park, which we would know if
25 they were, because they would be coming to our

2 Committee, and the Parks Department would be
3 owning and presenting it. And so, I guess my
4 question - and maybe it is perhaps rhetorical - is
5 it sounds like you're enthusiastic about the
6 structure in which the Parks Department of the
7 City of New York in a way that is connected to
8 sort of development and planning, and some pretty
9 complex real estate deals, acquires new parkland
10 and then works with the conservancy, with Friends
11 of the High Line in this case, to move forward,
12 and that you feel very comfortable that the rules
13 of the charter and the rules of the administrative
14 code of the city work well to continue to govern
15 both the process and the park here in a way that
16 still gives all the necessary flexibility to work
17 with Friends of the High Line and achieve this
18 magnificent new park. Is that a fair
19 characterization?

20 MR. BRADLEY: That certainly is, I
21 mean, the High Line is sui generis, it's very much
22 a different parcel than anything else that we have
23 acquired or developed in the past. It's subject
24 to Federal transportation law, so its disuse as an
25 abandonment, a formal abandonment, as a railroad

2 must be approved by the Federal Surface
3 Transportation Board. And in addition there's a
4 process under the Federal law for its gifting or
5 sale, conveyance to the city from the current
6 owners. This process was complicated, but we had
7 done it before and now we know how to do it. And
8 I think we're at a point now where this ... we know
9 how to go through all the steps that are needed.

10 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Great, thank
11 you, and I'm in no way asking you to criticize the
12 process in the Brooklyn Bridge Park acquisition,
13 nor interpreting your comments as any kind of
14 implicit criticism, only that this is an example
15 of a way of doing it that is genuinely within our
16 Parks Department and manner of public ownership,
17 and I may, at a future time, use that in contrast
18 to another process somewhere else, which you did
19 not refer to in any way. And then my last
20 question - before I ask, we've also been joined by
21 Council Member James Sanders from Queens - I'll
22 ask this as well as Friends of the High Line,
23 because I think it may be more in their domain
24 than yours. I think it's magnificent as a park
25 and as a kind of really visionary urban space in

2 our city, because we are also the Historic
3 Preservation Committee in addition to the Public
4 Sitings Committee, and one thing that I've
5 wondered a little bit about is plans for kind of
6 interpreting, curating, helping people think about
7 the really interesting questions of history that
8 are raised on the High Line, you know, about the
9 time when this neighborhood was industrial, a
10 working-class neighborhood, about neighborhood
11 change, about how we move goods, the whole set of
12 issues, and I'll ask Friends of the High Line, I
13 know that there's some thinking about that, and
14 I'm looking forward to hearing it, but I don't
15 know enough about whether the Parks Department has
16 this sort of historic, you know, kind of
17 preservation and interpretation component. I
18 can't think of it, and so I'm just curious.

19 MR. BRADLEY: We do, and this is a
20 subject that we have spent a great deal of time
21 and energy working on. Some of the signage that
22 was to be installed with the opening of the first
23 section was not ready, or the materials didn't
24 work out properly, and they still need to go
25 through the Public Design Commission, a review

2 process. But we do recognize that there needs to
3 be greater opportunities for interpretation of
4 this historic structure and for education of the
5 public. The Friends of the High Line are doing a
6 good job with what's there today, but we know that
7 we need to develop that further.

8 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you.

9 Are there questions from members of the
10 Subcommittee? Council Member Williams?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you
12 for your testimony. But one thing you said, it
13 was an unqualified success, I think we can qualify
14 the success from everything I've seen, the people
15 here and the two million people who have been
16 going there.

17 MR. BRADLEY: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Anyone else?
19 Great, all right, thank you very much again for
20 all the hard work on the project past and going
21 forward, and for being here today.

22 MR. BRADLEY: Thank you. Would you
23 like me to leave the materials up?

24 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: That would be
25 great. Although we are going to do testimony now

2 in panels, so if there's a way that we can get
3 four chairs at the table and still see the signs,
4 that would be great. Thank you. That would be
5 good. Okay, we're going to switch to doing panels
6 now, and we have two panels, a panel of four and a
7 panel of three. So that should be just fine, we
8 don't have so many that we need to strong arm
9 people into not testifying. Let me invite the
10 first - sorry, did I say that into the open mic?
11 Let me ask to join us Joshua David from Friends of
12 the High Line, Edward Kirkland from the community
13 board, Karen Jacob and Jane Cowen, for the first
14 panel. So why don't we go ahead and go in that
15 order. When you start, please state your name and
16 if you have one, organizational identification,
17 for the record, and we'll listen to all your
18 testimony first, and then ask questions of you as
19 a panel. When the light is off, that's when the
20 mic is on.

21 MR. DAVID: Good morning, my name
22 is Joshua David and I'm co-founder of Friends of
23 the High Line. Thank you, Chair Lander, members
24 of the Subcommittee, for allowing me to speak to
25 you today about this important matter. It's a

2 special honor to be before you today requesting
3 your support. Speaker Quinn and the City Council
4 have driven this project forward at every step of
5 the way. In 2002 the High Line gained its first
6 city support, a City Council resolution advocating
7 for the High Line's reuse. In 2003 the High Line
8 received its first city funding from the City
9 Council for capital construction, and that
10 allocation leveraged millions in both public and
11 private funding commitments following that. And
12 in 2005 the City Council approved the West Chelsea
13 rezoning, paving the way for the High Line's reuse
14 as public open space for all New Yorkers. On
15 behalf of all the friends of the High Line, I want
16 to take this moment to extend our deepest thanks
17 to the Speaker and the City Council. It is thanks
18 to their unequivocal support and the leadership of
19 Mayor Bloomberg's City Planning Chair, Amanda
20 Burden, and Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, we
21 have accomplished what no one thought possible.
22 The High Line has become one of New York's most
23 cherished and popular places. Since we opened
24 section one last June, we've received over two
25 million visitors. Section two, up to 30th Street,

2 is under construction, and will open next spring.
3 But from the beginning it has always been our
4 vision to create a continuous public open space,
5 from Gansevoort Street, through the West Side rail
6 yards, all the way to 34th Street. That's why we
7 strongly support the city's current application
8 for the High Line at the rail yards. Many people,
9 especially now that we're open to the public,
10 think that the entire High Line has been
11 preserved. But the truth is that almost one third
12 of the structure is still not protected. City
13 acquisition of the High Line is a critical step
14 toward preservation of the entire High Line and
15 its transformation into a public park. The
16 application before you would bring us one step
17 closer towards our goal, so we hope you will
18 approve it. We are thrilled by the visionary
19 leadership of the Speaker of the Council and Mayor
20 Bloomberg, and we are very hopeful that with
21 continued community advocacy and collaboration
22 with all involved stakeholders, we will save this
23 historic structure and transform it into a great
24 public space to be treasured by generations to
25 come. Thank you for hearing this matter, we look

2 forward to your continued support and
3 collaboration.

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you.

5 MR. KIRKLAND: Good morning, Chair
6 Lander, almost good afternoon. Honorable members
7 of the Council, my name is Edward Kirkland, and I
8 am testifying on behalf of Manhattan Community
9 Board #4 in support of the application for site
10 selection and acquisition of the High Line rail
11 structure and easements within blocks 676, 679 and
12 702, essentially the portion of the structure
13 north of 30th Street, over the West Side rail
14 yards, and including a spur. I should say that I
15 am testifying at the request of the senior co-
16 chair of the Chelsea Preservation and Planning
17 Committee of the Board, Lee Compton, who is unable
18 to testify today because he is recovering from a
19 knee operation. He wished me to express his
20 regret at his inability to participate in this
21 almost final action, in the formal preservation of
22 the High Line structure, and he thought I was the
23 person to replace him because we served together
24 as co-chairs of the committee during the first
25 ULURP for the preservation of the High Line, the

2 West Chelsea High Line rezoning. In fact my
3 connection goes back even farther back, because to
4 some extent I introduced Joshua here and Robert
5 Hammond together, though I had no idea what the
6 results of that were going to be. I would also
7 like to say, just in introduction, that, I mean,
8 I've just come from the Landmarks Commission
9 meeting, that I did ... I do support this as a
10 preservation personally, and indeed I also spoke
11 there at the preservation council, in favor of the
12 other item on your calendar today, the Springs
13 Mills Building, which is really an extraordinary
14 modern building, and really should be preserved.
15 I will skip the more formal parts of the thing,
16 and just all the sections and everything, and I am
17 just saying we thank the Council for its support
18 of its previous actions, and we hope it will
19 continue to do so. The recent rezoning process of
20 the West End rail yards clearly indicates that the
21 city's planning for developing these yards include
22 the preservation and conversion of the High Line
23 and incorporating it as a significant part of an
24 open-space network to be built over the rail
25 yards. This is very important. The proposed

2 placement of the building respects the High Line's
3 route and its important visual corridors. The
4 significant east-west views from the section of
5 the High Line, which were really the ones of which
6 they sold the High Line, I want to tell you, as
7 well as the long view southward, towards the
8 southern end of the viaduct, will remain open and
9 will help link the new community and the rail
10 yards visually and psychologically with the older
11 communities nearby. It's going to be at a
12 different level, and this is one of the few things
13 that can actually link them. Discussions have
14 started with the Hudson River Park Trust in
15 connecting the northern stretch of the High Line
16 above the rail yards with the river walkway by a
17 bridge over route 9A near 32nd Street. If these
18 discussions are successful, they will produce a
19 loop walk of over two miles long, with striking
20 views of the city and the river, and without a
21 single street crossing. Therefore this vote has a
22 potentiality of producing something even more
23 extraordinary than the earlier sections of the
24 High Line. And for these reasons, Community Board
25 #4 urges adoption of the site selection and

2 acquisition of this property by the City Council.

3 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Great, thank
4 you.

5 MS. JACOB: My name is Karen Jacob,
6 thank you for allowing me to speak today. I'm
7 also a volunteer for the High Line, and I'm a
8 docent leading tours. I start out all my tours by
9 saying that the High Line is half New York City
10 park, and it's also half of a museum, a tremendous
11 heritage of what the city was and is still today.
12 The High Line embraces the city, which I think is
13 unique with parks in the city. We welcome the
14 views, we point them out. The addition from 30th
15 to 34th Street with the only east-west, and
16 referred as one of the reasons that the High Line
17 be sold with that in mind, will wrap it around and
18 then the High Line will not only be embracing the
19 city, it will be hugging the city. And I think
20 that's really important. I also run a bed and
21 breakfast, a legal one, here in New York City.
22 And it is astonishing the amount of people who
23 come wanting to see the High Line. It is such a
24 destination, and I have people come from all over
25 the world. And everyone wants to know about the

2 High Line, how can I get there, how can I get up?
3 I'm happy to say that part of those over two
4 million people are some of the people that I have
5 sent up there. I strongly, strongly recommend the
6 acquisition of the final third of the High Line.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you.

9 MS. COWEN: Good morning, Chair
10 Lander and Council members, thank you for hearing
11 my testimony this morning, my name is Jane Cowen
12 and for the past eight years I've had the pleasure
13 of being an educational consultant with Friends of
14 the High Line, although I'm also speaking as an
15 individual to express my own passion for the High
16 Line and my own encouragement that you do take
17 this action and acquire the final third, full
18 third, of the open space. As we've heard, the
19 number of visitors, the fact that the High Line
20 has become the quintessential stop on any
21 tourist's destination, right up there with the
22 Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty,
23 is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to
24 all of the work that the elected officials have
25 put into this project, Council member Quinn,

2 Speaker Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg, Chair Burden, of
3 course, Friends of the High Line, Community Board
4 #4, and I don't want to repeat points that other
5 speakers made, because we've made them, but I do
6 want to speak to what you mentioned, the
7 historical aspect, that's something that's very
8 important to me. I am an architectural historian
9 and preservation, and since before the High Line
10 even opened, I have been working with Josh and
11 Robert to teach children about the importance of
12 the High Line and the role that it has played in
13 the development of the West Side of Manhattan, and
14 that's been a very important part of the Friends
15 of the High Line's program. We welcome numerous
16 children and school groups over this past year
17 that we were open, and opening the third section
18 will give further opportunity to do that. So I
19 just wanted to echo what other people said, and
20 remind us that in earlier generations before we
21 appreciated the value and understood the value of
22 the High Line, we did demolish sections of it, and
23 let's not make that mistake again. Let's have a
24 united vision and be able to present, to leave the
25 city with this incredible gift of the entire High

2 Line. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very
4 much. Just one or two quick things. First of
5 all, a lot of people have been thanked
6 appropriately, and obviously Speaker Quinn
7 exercised real leadership in partnership with the
8 community here. I'm sure there's many others, but
9 since we do have one in the room today, I've
10 nodded to her before, but I know Danielle DeCerbo
11 has been working on this project for a long time
12 in many facets, so I just want to acknowledge her
13 work on this project. And I just, you know, it's
14 helpful to have you say that, but I guess I would
15 like to go ahead and ask a question of Joshua and
16 the rest of you as well. I think it's sort of
17 quirky that we have public siting, landmarks and
18 maritime uses, so that, you know, the acquisition
19 of a park, thinking about our history, and how we
20 move goods, are also the purview of this
21 Committee, and you know, I think it's an
22 interesting challenge, it's such a magnificent
23 space, but it's so different from what it was, and
24 from the neighborhood around it, that I think that
25 there's an extra challenge in using it as an

2 opportunity to reflect on what it means that the
3 neighborhood was once industrial, what
4 neighborhood change looks like, and even as an
5 opportunity to think about how we move goods in
6 the city, which is ... and that's so far from
7 people's minds as well, and that the opportunity
8 to call people to it is an important one, but a
9 challenging one, and I would just love to hear a
10 little bit on sort of what the plans are for the
11 markers that we heard about, and maybe some of the
12 program that does that as well.

13 MR. DAVID: Sure. Hi, I think we
14 share all of the same objectives that you've laid
15 out. We really want the High Line to be an
16 effective tool to talk about all the things that
17 you've brought up. One of the challenges we faced
18 in the beginning is the High Line is a very
19 constrained space, as you're familiar with, and we
20 really wanted to, in the original design plan
21 there was a signage plan that was very
22 constrained, because we didn't want a lot of signs
23 all over the place, we wanted people to be able to
24 experience this environment in a sort of very
25 clear, clear and uncluttered way. We've realized

2 since we've opened that the signage system needs
3 some revisions. And one of the revisions is in
4 the very area that you were talking about. So one
5 of the things that we want to do is go back and
6 look at the way that our signage system is
7 designed, its limitations, see where those
8 limitations need to be broken out, go back to the
9 design commission and lay out a revised signage
10 plan and say we really need to communicate X, Y,
11 and Z, including a lot of historical
12 interpretation. So that's one piece of it. On a
13 temporary basis, there have been some small story
14 of the High Line signage that's been placed down
15 at the Gansevoort end and up at the 20th Street
16 end, up on the fence. Again, we started small,
17 because that's what we tend to do with signage.
18 We're in the process right now of ordering the
19 same versions of those same signs, twice as big,
20 which will go up in several months. And then in a
21 larger way, we really hope that programmatically
22 we're ... we had just our first season of really
23 calendared and curated programs this year. We did
24 some tests, some test programs last year, but this
25 is the first year we've had a really robust series

2 of programs that have been fully calendared and
3 publicized. And that's something that we expect
4 to grow in coming years and we are actively
5 seeking funding to grow in coming years. But one
6 of the things that I'd love to point out to you is
7 a really exciting program that Danya Sherman, who
8 coordinates all of our programs, has on the fall
9 roster, which is a lecture about the food history
10 of the High Line, the history of the High Line as
11 a transportation system for foods coming into New
12 York. It was called the lifeline of New York,
13 because so many foods came in. And we've ... a
14 class up at the Columbia School of Preservation
15 did a whole long study on all of the different
16 foods that were coming from all different parts of
17 the country, and the way that they were routed
18 into the city and how that worked. And we will be
19 doing a lecture on that in our fall program. And
20 that's the kind of thing that we hope to be doing
21 much more of as we really can ramp up our
22 programming efforts and find funding to really
23 expand them. We'll also be looking on a more
24 technological front on the ability to do cell
25 phone tours or phone apps that can cover some of

2 these areas as well.

3 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very
4 much, that sounds great.

5 MR. KIRKLAND: There's another ...
6 actually the community board has been concerned
7 with this as well. In fact, in the process of the
8 West Side rezoning, we actually, in the rezoning,
9 we actually incorporated as mitigation a historic
10 district, the West Chelsea historic district,
11 which does ... which actually has buildings that
12 were served by the High Line, one of them actually
13 has a platform on the High Line. And at the other
14 end there is the Gansevoort historic district, so
15 that I think all these things can be made to work
16 together to show the history and tie it together.
17 There is a flow bridge on the, you know, where the
18 freight cars came in from New Jersey, at the ... in
19 the Hudson River Park, very close to the High
20 Line, all these things can work together and be
21 made, I think, to be an extraordinary historic
22 resource, that when we think the rail, everything
23 came into New York by rail and water. And that is
24 a part of the history which is likely to be lost.

25 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: And you know,

2 a situation, not to belabor the point, I think we
3 can move forward, but that's a great answer. I
4 mean, I think partly the history is important,
5 partly, you know, I will relate that a couple of
6 times when I was up there, I overheard people
7 saying, "I wonder when the subway trains were up
8 here". You know, so, but partly these are
9 important debates we're continuing to have today,
10 because how we're moving goods in and out of the
11 city and the importance of bringing rail and water
12 back, as opposed to the overland trucks is
13 something that I think we want to keep pushing
14 forward and, you know, the connection to the
15 history is useful then too. So, thank you for
16 those plans and for all your testimony. Are there
17 other questions from members of the Committee?
18 Great, thank you very much.

19 MR. KIRKLAND: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Our final
21 panel is Jan Levy, Peter Davies and Peter Mullan.
22 And everyone else, if I haven't called your name ...
23 Peter Davies, great, so, okay, let me, I'll use
24 this opportunity as they come up, to read everyone
25 else who has come, and has signed up in favor, so

2 they'll be in the record. These are all people
3 who have signed up in favor, but in recognition of
4 the overwhelming support indicated, they don't
5 need to speak themselves. Wiley Reinhart, I
6 apologize if I blow these names. Hayashim Kaliyeh
7 ... Kalor (phonetic), Eileen Sullivan, Kyla Bonim ...
8 Bonair (phonetic), Scott Gallo, Suzanne Davis,
9 Lois Ruz, Lee Berrien, and Peter Davies. Thank
10 you all for being here and for your support and
11 work on this project.

12 MR. LEVY: Thank you, Chairman
13 Lander, I'm Jan Levy, I'm a former member of
14 Manhattan CB #7, and I'm a long-time supporter of
15 the High Line, and it's nice to be in this room
16 full of red shirts this morning. I wanted to
17 begin by thanking the Speaker and all the Council
18 members who have stayed the course through the
19 many required hearings that preceded this one.
20 It's been a long haul, but the goal is in sight.
21 I join all the Friends of the High Line and
22 elected officials who urge approval of permitting
23 the city to acquire this last segment of the High
24 Line from 30th Street to 34th Street. The time has
25 come to close the circle and make the High Line

2 whole. It is especially appropriate that just
3 last week the Rockefeller Foundation awarded the
4 Jane Jacobs medal to Josh David and Robert Hammond
5 for work that "creates new ways of seeing and
6 understanding New York City", and I certainly
7 think the High Line exemplifies that. They have
8 assuredly earned this prestigious recognition for
9 never giving up on their goal of making the High
10 Line yet another New York City icon for New
11 Yorkers and tourists to experience and enjoy. And
12 I remind the Council of all who joined the fight
13 from the earliest days, some 25 years ago, and I
14 am one of them, to those who joined along the way,
15 the Friends of the High Line are a strong and
16 loyal constituency. The Friends are known and
17 respected by the decision makers who have voted
18 approval during the many phases of this review
19 process. So I urge the members of the Council to
20 affirm the work and faith of all these New Yorkers
21 and others by according the city permission to
22 acquire the High Line from 30th to 34th Street. The
23 landscape portion of the High Line that is open to
24 the public has achieved enormous success. It is
25 already a destination known worldwide. By

2 attracting New Yorkers, visitors and tourists to
3 the area, it has beneficially impacted the
4 meatpacking district as a residential and
5 commercial venue, and the Whitney satellite museum
6 will one day be a prestigious anchor at the
7 southern end. The addition of another stop on the
8 extended #7 train on 34th Street will make the High
9 Line more easily accessible, while firmly linking
10 the far West Side to midtown. In conclusion I
11 will again mention the courageous visionary who
12 assured the future of the High Line, he is the
13 late Peter Obletz. Peter was a member and chair
14 of CB #4. Devoted to railroads, he was determined
15 that the High Line would not be sacrificed to
16 development of sterile groupings of residential
17 towers facing the river, backs turned to the city.
18 Without his foresight, that is what would have
19 become of what is now an urban treasure. I look
20 forward to seeing Peter Obletz's name in an
21 appropriate location on the High Line. Thank you
22 for your support to date, please give your fullest
23 consideration to all who appreciate this unique
24 public amenity. Please permit the city to acquire
25 the last link. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you.

3 MR. MULLAN: Good morning, my name
4 is Peter Mullan, I'm the Vice President for
5 Planning and Design at Friends of the High Line.
6 Thank you, Chair, thank you to the Committee, for
7 your enthusiastic reception of this matter. This
8 is a really extraordinary day for all of us, and
9 let's not ... the unanimity in the room, let us not
10 forget how far we have come and all the people
11 here who have been working so hard for such a long
12 time know that not so very long ago, you know, the
13 beginning of the latest round of the Hudson Yards
14 planning process, the High Line was sort of
15 written off. I mean, really the thinking, the
16 conventional wisdom was it was just in the way,
17 and that we just can't let it bog us down, let's
18 just get rid of it. And the people in this room
19 changed the perception of the decision makers and
20 worked tirelessly to convey how important the High
21 Line was, and what a great asset it could be. And
22 it's just extraordinary that we're here, and it's
23 a major victory. And I think also, it's the
24 beginning of a whole new process that we all get
25 to look forward to working on together. This is

2 the linchpin, really, between preserving the High
3 Line and then beginning to think about how to
4 build section three, and how to complete the High
5 Line all the way to 34th Street. And it's going to
6 be a long road, there's a lot of work to do and
7 there are a lot of steps left, and I look forward
8 to seeing everybody here again at more hearings,
9 I'm sure. But it's going to be terrific, and so
10 now we have the opportunity, if this goes forward,
11 to make it a reality. And so I just want to thank
12 everybody here, and express my support, obviously,
13 and thank the Committee for its reception of this
14 matter.

15 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Great, thank
16 you very much, both of you, for your testimony.
17 Do any members of the Committee have questions?
18 All right, seeing none, thank you very much for
19 your testimony. That concludes the public
20 testimony on this matter. Thanks so much to
21 everyone for coming, and for giving us such a nice
22 positive unanimous bunch of support. With that
23 we'll close the public hearing on both the matters
24 that we have just heard. I want to say a thank
25 you to the staff, to Christian, Carol and Gail for

2 the preparation of bringing us this matter today,
3 and we will move forward to a vote. So we are
4 voting now on both items together, 20105584 HKM,
5 the landmarking of the Springs Mills Building, as
6 well as C100180 PCM, for the site selection
7 acquisition of the High Line. The Chair
8 recommends a vote of aye, and asks counsel to call
9 the roll.

10 MR. HYLTON: Christian Hylton,
11 Counsel to Committee. Chair Lander.

12 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Aye.

13 MR. HYLTON: Council Member
14 Sanders.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS, JR: Aye.

16 MR. HYLTON: Council Member Palma.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

18 MR. HYLTON: Council Member Arroyo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes.

20 MR. HYLTON: Council Member Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

22 MR. HYLTON: Council Member
23 Williams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

25 MR. HYLTON: By a vote of six in

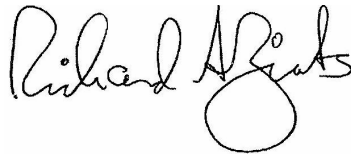
2 the affirmative, none in the negative, no
3 abstentions, LU 153 and 151 are approved and
4 referred to the full Land Use Committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: The vote open
6 for ten minutes, great. Great, thanks, everyone,
7 very much. No, perfect. Oh yeah, the meeting is
8 adjourned, we'll hold the roll open for ten
9 minutes.

10

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard A. Ziats, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Signature _____

Date August 1, 2010