

CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2018

Greenthumb Gardens Presentation - Ijendu Obasi, Outreach Coordinator for CB9

- City joined forces with "guerilla gardeners" in the 1970s who were taking the initiative to beautify neighborhoods
- Greenthumb was established in 1978 and currently has 20,000+ affiliated gardeners and 35 personnel on its staff
- Gardens must be open to the public at least 20 hours a week and hold at minimum one free community event per year
- Edgecombe Avenue Garden and Sugar Hill Garden have problems with shade (overgrown trees) and some trash dumping (diapers, etc.) and are in need of day-to-day gardening care - asks committee to advise on remedying these issues as these gardens are in need of long term stewardship by volunteers
- April 1st to October 31st is the season of operation

Sakura Park Staircase Reconstruction - Parks Department

- \$1.9 million in funding
- Goal is to reconstruct the granite stairs which are to be reused and repair the existing stone walls - the staircase won't look much different but will be brought to code with the addition of handrails and parapet walls
- Design includes a bit of landscaping and lighting
- Rounded black railing will be drilled into the coping stones to bring the staircase up to code
- Design also entails the restoration of the landscaping on the sidewalk at the base of the stairs - hexagonal blocks on sidewalk will be refurbished
- Completion is expected for Spring 2020
- **Letter of Support is passed unanimously 6-0-0 (2 Absent)**

119th Street Croton Aqueduct Gatehouse_Food Concession Service - Parks Department

- Gatehouse was constructed in the late 1800s and decommissioned in 1990
- Activation of the space as a cafe that compliments the community garden under the stewardship of the Columbia Secondary School - Parks has met with the school and is currently coordinating with the assistant principal, PTA, etc. in crafting RFP for food concession service operator
- Parks desires input with regard to crafting the RFP (Request For Proposal)
- Teenagers from the school use the site as part of their STEM courses - composting has been identified as an area for partnership, pursuing this idea in relation to a cafe operator
- The fencing, which is ugly, would be replaced
- There are no utilities in the space so the operator would be responsible for building things like bathrooms, etc.
- Interior of the building is around 1700 sq. ft.

- Committee advises Parks that the RFP should stipulate that the operator will work with a historic preservationist or a historic preservation organization
- Committee will send list of organizations Parks should speak to to Angel Williams, Project Manager, at angel.williams@parks.nyc.gov
- It was pointed out that the gatehouse was envisioned as part of a larger project known as the Waterline, which includes the Highbridge and speaks to the Old Croton Aqueduct system of NYC

ULURP for Frank White Memorial Garden_506 West 143rd Street - Parks Department

- Involves the acquisition of a lot that will be added to the adjacent community garden currently operated by the Brother Sister Sol organization
- In tandem with City Planning Commission, Parks is trying to get the ULURP process started to acquire private property for public use (a ULURP in reverse)
- Committee is against certification at this time as it will truncate the time for community input - the 60 days allotted for public review will occur when CB9 is on hiatus for summer
- Parks points out that there is a risk that the owner may sell to another if this is delayed 3 months
- Parks has been in discussion for 2 years with the owner, a church - price is around \$900,000
- Acquisition is solely for garden and open space purposes
- Lot in question is already being used as a community garden and has been used as such for decades

435 West 147th Street - Brian Weir LLC

- Two family home with a rental space in the basement - work is confined to the rear yard which is visible because of an empty lot
- Work involves the addition of stairs and a deck area which will be no higher than that of the adjacent building
- Two windows in the rear will become a larger and wider opening with a door for access to deck area - involves addition of lighting fixtures as well
- **Letter of Support is passed unanimously 6-0-0 (2 Absent)** - with a recommendation that the lintel over the new opening preserve some of the building's architectural character

Jacob Schiff Playground_Audubon Mural Project - Brett Dakin

- Artist Jessie Novik will paint a mural in this park as part of the Audubon Mural Project which has as its goal the creation of 314 murals, each representing one of the 314 endangered bird species in North America
- Mural complicated by the small retaining walls of the park
- Will work with Creative Arts Work (CAW), an organization that employs youth under the guidance of a teaching artist to paint murals - CAW is creating a separate mural at P.S. 192 which is directly in front of Jacob Schiff

Harlem Eat Up (HEU) Festival_Discussion

- Send Parks' reports from Arnyce of Historic Harlem Parks (reports consist of photos taken pre- and post- the HEU event which occurred May 19-21) to the Executive Committee and members of the committee
- Central Park does not allow the kind of disturbances that Morningside Park deals with - stricter in terms of maintenance
- Why not make it a street fair? - close off a couple of streets instead of using the baseball fields