

CB9M Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Minutes and Updates

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting, Called to Attention at 6:37pm and to Order at 8:15pm

Co-Chairs: Hon. Heather Jason and Hon. Jonathan Thomas

Committee Members Present: Hon. Patricia Caldwell, Hon. Dan Cohen, Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Hugo Torres-Fetsco and Hon. Liz Waytkus.

Absent Committee Members: Hon. Michael Palma, Hon. Carolina Ramirez, and Hon. Jonathan Thomas.

Community Members and Park Representatives Present:

Leslie Wright (Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park), Mallory Craig (The Hort, DFRSP Greenhouse), Karen Asner (Friends of St. Nicholas Park), Brad Taylor (Friends of Morningside Park), Dacotah Rousseau (Down to Earth Farmers Markets) Steve Simon, Joy Gutierrez, Alexander Han, Anthony Macari, and Matt Genrich (NYC Parks), Jana La Sorte (Harlem Historic Parks), Wesley Hamilton (Riverside Park), Stephanie Caban (Riverside Park Outreach Coordinator), Shannon Richards (Dog Run 142), George Ranalli, Margaret Bracken, Michael Summerville, Anne V, Angel revenue, Aaronson, Kim Johnson (snpba), Emily Nobel Maxwell, Kyshia Smith (MBPO), La Juana, Cheryl, Luka McLean, Myles, and Rachaele Raynoff.

New Business: NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks Updates & Announcements

- **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park:** Open between 6am -11pm
 - Event page: [DF Riverbank State Park \(@dennyfarrellriverbankstatepark\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)
 - Holiday Art Workshop for ages 3-12 for the first 170 children 12/10/22. Cultural Theater. 1:30pm-2:30pm.
 - Take a photo with Santa: 2:30pm to 3:30pm on 12/10/22. Cultural Theater.
 - Winter Holiday Skating Celebration 12/10/22. The Ice Rink at 4pm. 250 capacity.
 - Tree Lighting Celebration 12/10/22 Rink side at 4:45pm.
 - Citizen Application Assistance: 12/11/22 9am-3pm. Registration is required M-F 8am to 8pm. Call 1-888-839-8682 or scan the QR code from the brochure.
 - Ice Skating season including figure skating and ice hockey is 11/11/22-3/12/23.
 - **Movie Night** will occur next on 12/16/22 and **Open mic** is ongoing.
 - The **Community Garden Lottery** for 65 plots will occur **Saturday 2/25/23 at 11am**. Six of the raised beds will be ADA compliant. Save the Date! The lottery is for a two year period commitment to plant vegetables and flowers. Occasionally The Hort provides starter plants and seed giveaways.

- **Capital Project:** Aquatics and Athletic locker room renovations to start in the spring of 2023. This will be a yearlong project. Trailers with portable bathrooms and showers will be used, but the facility will not close in its entirety.
 - **Capital Project:** Renovations at the Gym Athletics building. Renovate the full set of the aquatic men's and women's locker rooms. Fitness rooms with the equipment will remain open. Temporary trailer showers and bathrooms will be available.
 - **Capital Project:** The renovation of the track and field will occur between 2/2023 and 6/2023. This will be the third renovation in the life of the park. The 70 feet Light Tower around the track and field will also be renovated.
 - Beginning the design process of the south end improvements including the kids' playground, comfort stations, handball, softball fields and basketball courts near the 138th Street entrance. Designs are anticipated by next spring. **The survey generated approximately 300 responses with most people commenting on how much they love the park.**
 - **Capital Project:** Replacing HVAC in the theater Winter/Spring 2023. If there are any delays, the contractor must provide temporary service.
 - **Proposed Capital Project:** amphitheater, life guard and first aid stations, entrances, roof replacement, tile facades, elevator towers, stair towers, and offices between spring 2023 and summer 2024.
 - **Carnegie Hall** entertainment event will occur in January.
 - **Park turns 30 years old next spring!** There will be many community celebrations.
- **Friends of Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park** meets every second Saturday of the month in the Theater Rehearsal Room.
 - **Greenhouse at Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park:**
 - [The Greenhouse Education Center](#)
 - **Introduction to new faces:** The new Greenhouse Manager is Diego.
 - Installing a wind tunnel to extend the growing season and specialty workshops are being developed regarding this initiative as well as Seed Starting workshops.
 - The current schedule will end 12/21/22 with a two week break until January.
 - Family Gardening Saturdays at 10am, Fall Tours Saturdays at 12pm.
 - Working on producing brochures in English and Spanish.
 - Intentional Herbal Healing (Participants in our public programs have continued their studies with intentional healing by creating herbal bath soaks and herbal face and hair washes with Miriam Aristy-Farer who continues to offer bilingual workshops each Wednesday evening at 5pm. Join us!)
 - Botanical Drawing (Participants in our Botanical Arts class have been learning the art of mindful and observational studies to create both botanical prints and detailed observational drawings from Harlem Arts Fund artist, Kraig Blue. Join us for these workshops each Thursday evening at 5pm). [Botanical Drawing — The Greenhouse Education Center](#)

- Festive Fall Cooking (Participants in our festive fall cooking have learned plant-based and nutritional eating from Harlem-based chefs every Tuesday morning at 11am), Open Hours Tuesdays at 12pm.
 - New programming to starting in January 2023. They want to engage new gardeners whether you win a lottery plot or not. The registration link is as follows: [Schedule Appointment with The Greenhouse Education Center \(as.me\)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FJ4q1Pd63XUAgIjoWt8UG6ChDw6kguQT/view?usp=share_link)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FJ4q1Pd63XUAgIjoWt8UG6ChDw6kguQT/view?usp=share_link
 - **See school programs brochure in the link below:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hCQdHxqGo9JkUaLGMisXRqePTqCh2h0R/view?usp=share_link
- **Donnellan Square between West 149th and 150th Streets at Saint Nicholas Avenue**
 - Pedestrian ramp and crosswalk has been replaced by DOT.
 - Pruning has been completed at the park which will address some safety concerns.
 - **Jacob H. Schiff Playground** Amsterdam Ave. & W 136th- W 138th Streets, NY, NY 10031: Capital Project Update: Synthetic Turf Field is complete. New gates and lighting are needed and underway. Comfort station improvements will begin in 2023.
[Jacob Schiff Playground Sitting Area Reconstruction : NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](https://www.nycgovparks.org/jacob-schiff-playground-sitting-area-reconstruction)
 - **Dog Run 142nd Street:** Please see the following: Instagram @dogrun142
 - **Canine Safe course.** Saturday 11/5/22 between 12pm-1pm was successful.
 - Issue with owners abandoning dogs in St. Nicholas Park, angelic intervention.
 - **Riverside Park Conservancy:**
 - A 3 minute survey has been distributed and posted to determine what activities and events the community wants for **Summer on the Hudson 2023**.
 - Bathrooms are still closed at the West 142nd Street location due to no lighting. However, progress has been made. The water main issue in January –February which caused flooding and damage was resolved.
 - Holiday on the Hudson 12/10/22 at around 5pm.
 - **Friends of St. Nicholas Park:**
 - Tree lighting at West 135th Street Plaza between 5pm-6pm on 12/10/22. Ornament making, refreshments and Jazz Ensemble.
 - Play Fair Rally Tuesday at City Hall 12/6/22. [The Fair Play 4 Parks Rally City Hall Steps 12/6/22 hosted by @NY4P @voteshekar @MBPMarkLevine - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
 - 3 Bills for NYC Parks for Comprehensive Capital Reform:
 - Blueprint to decrease the duration of capital projects by 25%.
 - Add more information on capital tracking that includes the reason for delays.
 - Assess dead end streets suited for tree planting.

- **Morningside Park:** Art in the Parks **Naomi Lawrence:** Tierra Fragil, depicts endangered insects and birds with the flowers and plants imperative to their survival. The mural informs and encourages the preservation of familiar species whose presence we may have taken for granted. 9/25/22-09/10/23
- **Morningside Park: Capital Project** Park Path Reconstruction along ball fields on the south side between West 110th and 114th Streets. Fencing and access to West 114th Street provided by Matt and the NYC Parks Department is appreciated.
- **Friends of Morningside Park:**
 - Holiday Tree Lighting events will occur 12/10/2022 at 5pm. East at West 120st Street and Riverside Drive.
 - **info on our tree lighting** <https://morningsidepark.org>
 - Contributed to \$3,000 to the Naomi Lawrence Exhibit.
- **Historic Parks: Morningside Park and Saint Nicholas Park:**
 - Meet our new Manhattan Parks Commissioner Anthony Perez who will give some remarks & light the tree with Friends at Saint Nicholas Park!
 - **Bonus! SLEDDING PARK PICK IN THE PRESS!** [Where to go sledding in NYC \(pix11.com\)](http://Where to go sledding in NYC (pix11.com))
 - Saint Nicholas Park is the designated sledding hill in the event of a snow day.
- **West Harlem Piers Park**
 - Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for 12/10/22 at 4:30pm.
 - **125th & Marginal Streets in West Harlem Piers Park**

Presentations:

- **Riverside Park W 107th to W 112th Street Paving, Fencing & Stairs-**
Margaret Bracken, NYC Parks
 - Total Budget: \$750,000 Mayoral (State of Good Repair)
 - \$800,000 Riverside Park Conservancy
 - Project Size: .75 acres
 - Anticipated completion by spring 2023 (April or May)
 - Goals
 - Improve paving conditions and accessibility including ADA compliant handrails
 - Improve site drainage
 - Reduce asphalt and enhance permeability of site
 - Reconstruct bluestone step ramp
 - Replace existing steel panel fence
 - Install benches
 - Install sealcoat for pickleball courts

- **Construction of a Kiosk for an Outdoor Café in Morningside Park Snack Bar Concession, and Renovation of the existing Men’s and Women’s comfort stations to become ADA compliant at the West 112th and Manhattan Avenue site.** Joy Gutierrez, RA LEED AP, Architect for Revenue and Concessions, NYC Parks with George Ranalli, Architect Consultant
 - The Applicant is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness permit from the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
 - The Kiosk structure will be fabricated offsite and installed on the front terrace platform.
 - The proposed materials include sheet metal finish and painted structural steel in hunter green color which represents an attractive enhancement to the location in the park.
 - The Kiosk does not appear to distract from the historic nature of the park.
 - The proposed fabricated Kiosk with signage and placement is appropriate in size and scale.
 - There has been a tradition of prior Kiosk structures at this location in the park.
 - Two windows of the café will be fixed and two will be operable including one that will provide ADA accessibility by wheelchairs.
 - Above ground planter boxes will be installed on the terrace to seamlessly integrate the Kiosk with the surrounding nature within the park.
 - Existing concrete pavers will be patched and repaired or replaced if broken.
 - The Big Belly trash receptacles will aid in the containment of refuse including food waste and garbage to mitigate any potential rat problem.
 - The Daikin condenser will be appropriately installed within an existing structure.
 - Existing Benches will remain and Outdoor Café Seating will be inclusive to any park attendee and not exclusive to diners of the concession.
 - Operating hours will be from 11am -9pm daily and will include seafood and American fair cuisine. The business is currently anticipated to be seasonal and open from April –October.
 - The men’s and women’s comfort stations will be maintained by the concession operator during regular business hours.
 - During hours when the Concession is closed, the comfort stations will remain open and maintained by the NYC Parks Department.
 - MCB9 wishes to negotiate earlier café opening hours on weekends to accommodate group sport, New York Road Runners Club, family activities and other neighboring vendor participants at the Morningside Park Farmers Market.
 - The concession operator Michael Summerville was present at our committee meeting and is amenable to working with NYC Parks and the Community to address any concerns and ensure the success of this business during its nine year contract term from 2021 to 2030.
 - Summerville, also known as “Crabman Mike” is highly respected in Harlem and has been serving seafood in the community for decades.
 - Construction which is financed by the concession operator is anticipated to begin in spring 2023 and conclude after approximately three months.
 - The revenue from Parks concession in almost all cases is deposited into the Parks General Fund.

- **DRAFT MILLION MORE TREES RESOLUTION**, Emily Nobel Maxwell and Kyshia Smith (MBPO)
 - <https://forestforall.nyc>
 - Increasing Community Resiliency and Quality of Life through New York City Urban Forest Canopy Protection, Maintenance, Expansion, and Planting at least a Million More Trees.
 - It is difficult to plant only native trees.
 - **It is preferred that native trees be the focus and priority for planting.**
 - NYC Parks advocates and supports the program to strengthen the Urban Forest and is targeting areas in Harlem to plant additional trees where feasible.
 - Committee requested additional time to review the Resolution and comment.

Old Business:

Arts and Jazz Festival NYC, Gwen Black

- 2nd Annual Community Christmas Caroling, Arts and Crafts on 12/18/22 and 12/20/22.
 - Live Music, Tree Lighting in coordination with Friends of Montefiore Park and more located at Montefiore Park Plaza located at West 137th Street and Broadway on 12/18/22 at 5pm-7:30pm.
 - Holiday Arts & Crafts at the Manhattanville Community Center located at 530 West 133rd on 12/20/22 between 3pm-7pm.
- www.artsandjazzny.com or gwenblackarts@yahoo.com

Proposed West Harlem Historic District and Conference - Yuien Chin, West Harlem Community Preservation Organization and Harlem One Stop

- In the process of securing a location for the conference event at either City College or Columbia University and hoping to confirm a date.
- No news on proposed National Registry or NYC LPC Historic District.

RKO Theater – Exploring the possibility of the Jazz Museum as anchor tenant and space for other tenants.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57pm: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Heather Jason