



CB9M LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chris Johnson, called the regular meeting of the CB9M Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee to Order at 6:31 p.m. EST, on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom conferencing.

QUORUM: was established with eight committee members present and in person.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda and November 6, 2024 minutes were adopted.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND IN-PERSON

Co-Chair Hon. Heather Jason, Co-Chair Hon. Christopher Johnson, Hon. Patricia Caldwell, Hon. Joshua Christopher, Hon. Annette Robinson, Hon. Veronica Savage, Hon. April Adams and Hon. Liz Waytkus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED : None

GUESTS PRESENT IN-PERSON

- Savona Bailey-McClain, West Harlem Art fund
- Clyde Brogdan, Morningside Park Alliance
- Ian Oldsen, Broadway Mall Alliance
- Ira Gershenhorn

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Chair Hon. Victor Edwards (virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT VIRTUAL

Leslie Wright (NYC Regional Director, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRSP), Mallory Craig (Education Center Manager, The Horticultural Society of New York, (DFRSP), Callie Tominsky, (Supervisory Park Ranger, North District Manhattan Sites, National Park Service), Wes Hamilton (NYC Parks, Riverside Park); Stephanie Caban (North Park Outreach Coordinator, Riverside Park Conservancy); Shannon Richards (142nd Street Dog Run); Tapashi Narine (NYC Parks, Historic Harlem Parks Administrator); Matt Genrich (NYC Parks); Ijandu Oban, Green Thumbs Parks, Karen Asner, Friends of St. Nicholas Parks, John Herrold, Riverside Park Administrator, Peter Miller, Palette Architecture, Geraldine Gregg, Nora Cole, Edgecomb Avenue Garden Park Sanctuary, Brad Taylor, Morningside Park Alliance, Ms. Brown, Resident, 142nd Street.

PARKS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRBSP): Leslie Wright

- Announced upcoming scheduled programs and events - refer to Parks' website
- Holiday Tree lighting , Saturday, December 14th
- New youth programming will be taking place during the holiday school vacation period
- Community Garden lottery pick takes place Saturday, Feb 15th at the theatre, refer to website.
- The North Stairs Tower and Elevator capital project is on track, shuttle Service will continue to run during the life of the capital project (20 minute intervals - two vans).

- Victor E. asked about acceptable proof of residence for entering the lottery
- Community Gardens and Green Thumb Gardens will be available to lottery entrants that are not selected
Community Gardens information for open beds TBA in January

Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park - Greenhouse & Education Center Learning Garden;; Mallory Craig

- Provided event and programming information for December
- Family Farms Market Give Away 12/14/24 11am-1pm
- Events; Winter Solstice celebration, Winter Garden information, storytelling
- Field trips are going well - there are still spots available. For schools in CB9 there is no cost.
- Field Trips for students occur every Thursday, and Friday morning
- MCB9 bo member Patricia Caldwell, asked if Mallory is an arborist and requested assistance with Christmas tree light for Donnellan Square
- Veronica S. thanked Mallory for providing assistance with soil testing .

Riverside Park and West Harlem Piers: Wes Hamilton

- 142 Dog Run is moving forward - project is on track for the end of Spring completion.
- The Cherry Walk Restoration project on schedule for completion late March 2025. John Harrold noted the project is ahead of schedule due to the unseasonably mild winter weather conditions..
- Ira Gershenhorn asked about the-trees planted along 135th St and expressed concerns - John Harrold would be follow-up.
- MCB9 Board Patricia Caldwell asked for arborist

Riverside Park Conservancy: Stephanie Caban

- Holiday Tree Lighting event will take place at West Harlem Piers Park, Dec 7th, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Friends of Morningside Park: Brad Taylor

- Brad mentioned there will be a holiday tree lighting event, Dec 7th. and be stepping down as president Clyde, and Brigham Keener become the new co-chairs effective January 2025
- Victor E., thanked Brad for his incredible years of service and contribution to the community.
- Brad, mentioned his support for the evening's presentation by West Harlem Art Fund executive director and chief curator Savona Bailey

Friends of St. Nicholas Park: Karen Asner

- Holiday Tree Lighting event taking place in the 135th Street Plaza, Dec7th from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m..
- April A., asked about the damaged light pole near the dog walk
- Matt G. will be following with DOT to restore the light pole
- Patricia C. questioned Karen about the tree lighting, and acquiring of park permits

NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks: Tapashi Narine

- **St. Nicholas Park:**
- Holiday Tree lighting event, Dec 7th, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Morningside Park :**
- Holiday Tree lighting event Dec 7th, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Holiday Market will be located in the Jackie Robinson bandshell, every Saturday. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Mulchfest will take place at the end of December.
- Patricia Caldwell. asked Tapashi if she would be at Jackie Robinson Park on Saturday so they could meet..

NYC Parks, Matt Genrich

- Holiday Tree Lighting at Montefiore Square, Sunday, Dec 8th at 5 p.m

- Mulchfest will take place from December 26th to January 12th, with various dropoff locations at Morningside Park and Marcus Garvey Park. Chipping station will be in place at Marcus Garvey Park on 1/11/25 from 10am-2pm
- DSNY will be picking-up Christmas Trees from residences during designated recycling days.
- Alexander Hamilton Playground, Basketball court renovation should be completed by September 2025
- Sheltering Arms Comfort Station - should be available shortly.
- The 113th Staircase is on track for completion by April 2025.
- Patricia Caldwell asked Matt about her Christmas Tree lighting request and what he explained to her by telephone and email earlier.
- April A. mentioned soil was dumped on the pathway at Hamilton Grange park,. Matt explained the soil is being used to address the soil erosion - Central Park Conservancy is providing assistance..
- Josh C. asked about the retaining wall reconstruction and future work at the park.

NEW BUSINESS, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS

Broadway Mall Association - Ian Olsen, Director of Horticulture

- Ian showed slides of BMA's work along Broadway, in the 80's and at 150th St. and the plan to focus on restoring the walk-thru malls in 2025 and 2026. He emphasised the need for frequently clearing trash and plans to install Big Belly trash receptacles as part of a capital grant.. For 2025 BMA estimates watering cost to be 64K. Savona Bailey-McClain, stated her past experiences with BMA were not positive and suggested BMA actively build community relationships. Annette and Savona suggested BMA focus on the community (people) and not just the malls. Several suggestions were offered relating to community engagement. BMA recently opened an office at The Church of The Intersession, 155th St and Broadway. Ian provided his contact information and invited attendees to the new office location's open house.

West Harlem Art Fund. Savona Bailey-McClain and Peter Miller

- Savons, overviewed West Harlem Art Fund and introduced Peter Miller who presented the Place of the Rushes, sculpture work as a collaboration including Peter, The West Harlem Art Fund, Moana, James Richardson, Engineer and Savona. The sculpture installation will be located in Morningside Park in the area where the rushes grew. The art sculpture is part of a proposal for a multi-material woven craft that reflects a given place or location - it will be a large multi-material piece, approximately 8'x7' fabricated of a plastic and a wire-frame. Heather asked about the inspiration for the color selection. Savona explained the use of the natural environment and material to reflect sunlight to create the different colors. Opening day is scheduled for May 2, 2025. Starting January 15, 2025 there will be opportunities for other artists and neighborhood residents to participate in the sculpture fabrication work. The West Harlem Art Fund will be requesting a letter of support sometime in the future.

Closed Session - Public Not Present

- Chris J. referred to a short survey emailed earlier in the day to LPP members to gather preferences for the committee meeting duration, time they can commit to preparing minutes, familiarity with Google Docs and comments. The results will be shared with the committee members. List was created indicating the committee members name and month for preparing the meeting minutes..

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES/ Landmarks Preservation Property Improvement Concerns

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8., 2025 at 6:30 p.m. EST.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christopher Johnson and Annette Robinson.