

## CB9M Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting, Called to Attention at 6:40pm

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

**Committee Members Present:** Hon. Dan Cohen, Hon. Heather Jason and Hon. Jonathan Thomas

### New Business: NYC Parks, DF Riverbank State Park, and The Hort Updates & Announcements

- **DFRBSP:** 6/10/22 **Visual Arts Jazz Day:** 11am to 5pm
- [www.gwenblackarts.com](http://www.gwenblackarts.com) [www.artsandjazzny.com](http://www.artsandjazzny.com)
- **DFRBSP** 6/12/22 Spring programming athletic and aquatics end. 6/18/22 Summer Registration
- **DFRBSP:** 6/19/22 **Father's Day Concert;** Lou Grassi & Friends 2pm – 4pm (**Main Stage Events**)
- **DFRBSP:** 6/19/22 **Juneteenth Celebration: Motown,** Our Children's Firefighter 6pm-8pm
- **DFRBSP:** 6/26/22 **DJ Music at the Park:** DJ DATGURCURLY, Sunday 12pm-6pm
- **DFRBSP:** 7/3/22 **Summertime Concert:** Mike Freeman/ZonaVibe, Sunday 2pm-3:30pm
- **DFRBSP:** 7/4/22 **4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert:** Sonido Costeno 1:30-3pm & FDR Drive Band 3:30pm-5pm
- **DFRBSP:** 7/9/22 **Jammin on the Hudson:** D.B.A. Girls on Top, Saturday, 1:30pm-3pm
- **DFRBSP:** 7/17/22 Ray Blue Quartet: Sunday 2:00pm-4pm (Bring your own chair to the concerts)
- **DFRBSP:** 7/24/22 **DJ Music at the Park:** DJ DATGURCURLY, Sunday 12pm-6pm
  
- **St. Nicholas Park:** 6/10/22 **Home to Harlem in the Park: Cotton Comes to Harlem** 7:45-8:45pm
- [Home to Harlem in the Park — maysles documentary center](#)
- **St. Nicholas Park:** 6/11/22 "Dancing in the Light" an afternoon of Dance 3:00pm – 6:00pm  
Picnic Basket allowed, but alcohol is not permitted at James Baldwin Lawn W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street
- **St. Nicholas Park:** 6/14/22 Movies Under the Stars: **Target; St Louis Vol 1** U.S. Military conducted secret chemical testing on citizens of St. Louis Northside. James Baldwin Lawn; 7:30pm Q & A with the Director followed by the Documentary Screening at 8:30pm.
  
- **Riverside Park Conservancy W 59<sup>th</sup> to 181<sup>st</sup> Streets:** [summer-on-the-hudson-events-calendar\\_6247422eb54ba.pdf \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- Summer on the Hudson is a free program series in the Park – there are many opportunities for all ages: educational programs, Tango lessons, dance fitness for all ages, concerts at West Harlem piers, birding walks, sun/star gazing, forest bathing, horticulture tours, shows and activities for kids, etc. Some upcoming nearby highlights include:
  - **[Adults] Everybody Tango @ 125<sup>th</sup> & Marginal Street**  
6:30pm – 8:30pm, every Thursday in June and July
  - **[Adults] Friday Freshen Up**  
7pm-8pm on:
    - Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> **Gina D'Soto** (jazz, soul, Cuban fusion)
    - Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> **Danielle Martin** (blues-based alt rock)
    - Friday August 26<sup>th</sup> **Rasha Jay** (vocal powerhouse bringing soul to modern rock)Local live music to kick off the weekend!

**[All Ages] World Fish Migration Day @ 172<sup>nd</sup> Street Beach**

Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Wade into Hudson to collect species to better understand the river's ecology, in partnership with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

**[All Ages] Billion Oyster Project Presentation @ Baylander off of West Harlem Piers**

12pm – 2pm on:

Saturdays June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Saturdays July 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Saturdays August 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Saturdays September 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

- **[Families & Kids] Play Dates @ 125<sup>th</sup> & Marginal Street**

1pm-4pm

- Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> – The New York Yoyo Show
- Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> – WonderSpark puppets
- Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> – Comedy Magic

- **[All Ages] Jazz Foundation Presents: Saxophone Summit @ 125<sup>th</sup> & Marginal Street**

Concert with several saxophonists and renowned jazz organist Greg Lewis

- **[Mature Folks] Movement Speaks Workshop @ 133<sup>rd</sup> Street & Marginal Street**

Thursdays in August, 6pm-7pm

*Dances for a Variable Population* leads creative movement classes for adults of all ages and abilities, with a focus on seniors.

**[All Ages] Art Exhibit @ 145<sup>th</sup> Street Lawn by the Art Students League**

Throughout the month of August

- **Ft. Washington Multi-Sport Camp:** <https://riversideparknyc.org/program-details-fort-washington-sports-camp/> Need based scholarships available regardless of finances.

- Cherry Walk Update Request: 158th on Park side gate remains open: cars come through on the walkway. Complicated. EMS, NYPD, FDNY, MTA access needed.

- **The Hort:** June 25<sup>th</sup> Plant give away. Lantanas, Begonias & Sweet Potatoes 11am-1pm
- **The Hort:** July starts new summer programming including healthy eating, pickling, preserving, and cooking with family events.

**Presentations:**

**The Horticultural Society of New York, Pam Ito, Director of Education**

- Provide programming in conjunction with DOE where finger printing is required.
- Instructors trained in horticulture teach the children in the areas of pure science, life cycles of plants, butterflies and lady bugs.

- Currently serve up to 10 to 30 schools in Harlem in areas of cooking, and school garden programs
- Long term relationship with Morningside Retirement and Health Services. Seniors frequent DFRBS for the produce giveaways and weekend programs. Online classes are also offered.
- Collaborate programming with The Brotherhood Sister Sol.
- Participate with the DFRBSP Summer Camp.
- Engage the children with the Pollinator Garden and tree plantings.
- Many school groups utilize the space in the Greenhouse and learn about tropical and carnivorous plants selected to connect with the culture of Hawaii and Dominican Republic.
- Provide recipes, market bags of fresh produce including squash that coincide with the changes in the seasons.
- Children water plants, harvest, cook and pick produce from the garden and Greenhouse.

**Riverside Park Drainage System Study for the Reconstruction of Drainage between 108<sup>th</sup> to 116<sup>th</sup> Streets from the Hudson River to Riverside Drive, Contract M071-120M, Justin Corcoran**

- \$8.55 million total budget. Project area is limited to 4.1 ac of 34 ac.
- **Restore existing drainage to working conditions by replacing compromised drainage infrastructure and pipes.**
- Water is bypassing the 85 year old catch basins. (Expansion joints)
- Below grade grates will be raised. Small grate openings.
- Sinkholes are noticeable within the lower park area and pedestrian zones.
- **Provide upgrades required for code compliance, increased resiliency, public safety and safe work environments.**
- **Reduce and mitigate flooding within the park and prevent further erosion.**
- Flooding at pedestrian zone down 115<sup>th</sup> Street staircase. Ponding at lower park area. 72% of structures filled with debris. Compromised by tree roots breaking the system.
- Goal to prevent further erosion along upper park path.
- Visible Runoff over pedestrian ramps.
- Inconsistent curbing.
- Clogged basins on Henry Hudson Pkwy.
- Permeability rate is inadequate for infiltration.
- Working to avoid the critical root zone in the design process.
- **Proposed:** 108<sup>th</sup> Street outfall, 15' MOU offset, swale, rain garden, soil stabilization, pedestrian zone regrading, new lower park piping, replace the drainage system within the pedestrian zone, install curbing at Upper Park Path, replace Asphalt Paths at Upper and Lower Park Paths.
- Maintain existing path configurations and widths.
- Replace existing hex pavers in-kind.
- Replace portions of railing to match existing.
- No structural analysis has been performed on top of the Amtrak tunnel.

**459 West 140<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10031 WE ACT for Environmental Justice** Community Environmental Education Center Renovation (roof construction), Peggy M. Shepard

- Townhouse located across from City College.
- Applicant claims a prior LOS was received from CB9M approximately 15 years ago.
- Capital funding was removed. Recently raised the resources and presenting new plans.
- Stabilized the building in the past year. Completed the work in December.
- Building has been vacant for 30 years. Purchased in 1982. Moved to the block in 1991.
- Previously utilized as a club for African students. Acquired by HPD and sold to We Act.
- Formal community facility which requires an elevator.
- Offices will be located on the first two floors.
- Net zero heating and cooling design goal.
- Greenhouse on top of the roof will be enclosed.
- Additionally, applicant desires to build a small conference room on the roof.
- Waiting for Con Edison to bring electricity to the building.
- Schematic floor plans were provided which did not provide detail to understand scope.
- Requested the LPC presentation for the project showing renderings or imaging, mock-ups, historic pictures, line of site, roof detail, materials that will be used, elevation details, the nature of the expansion and the effect on the neighboring buildings.
- A neighbor to this townhouse voiced objection to the project in terms of sunlight and inappropriateness of the expansion that is not in keeping with neighboring roofs.
- Neighbors have requested an opportunity to receive project details and provide input.
- Neighbor requested “to provide photos of how the proposed addition impacts the character of the historic homes on 141st. It is imperative the Executive Committee visualize this aspect.”
- “If We Act makes a presentation at the Executive Committee it precludes comments and input from the surrounding neighbors unless they will be able to attend the meeting as well.”
- No hearing date at the Landmarks Preservation Commission was provided.

**Morningside Heights Historic District Committee (Phase II Initiative) - *Preserving the Next Phase of Historic Residential Districts***, Gregory Dietrich and Robert Stern

- Morningside Heights Historic District designated 02/21/2017.
- 5 Mini non continuous extensions. Used the geography to name the proposed districts.
- **Proposed Morningside Heights Historic District Extension includes 62 buildings within the proposed district, consisting of:**
  - 32 row houses, 14 apartment buildings, 1 tenement buildings, 1 boarding house, 2 taxpayers, 1 apartment hotel, and 1 French flats
  - Construction in the study area spans the years 1896-1996, with 1896-1910 representing the peak period of construction

- **Proposed Amsterdam Avenue-Morningside Drive South Historic District includes 13 buildings within the proposed study area, consisting of:**
  - 5 apartment buildings, 3 tenement buildings, 2 French flats, 2 institutional residences, and 1 single-family dwelling
  - Construction in the study area spans the years 1900-1995, with 1900-1906 representing the peak period of construction
  
- **Proposed Amsterdam Avenue-Morningside Drive North Historic District includes 18 buildings within the proposed study area, consisting of:**
  - 8 tenement buildings 6 apartment buildings 3 French flats, and 1 apartment hotel.
  - Construction in the study area spans the years 1899-1924, with 1899-1912 representing the peak period of construction
  
- **Proposed Broadway-Amsterdam Avenue Historic District includes 40 buildings within the proposed study area, consisting of:**
  - 28 tenement buildings, 6 French flats, 2 apartment buildings, 1 institutional residence, and a church, rectory, and parking garage.
  - Construction in the study area spans the years 1896-2004, with 1896-1906 representing the peak period of construction
  
- **Proposed Riverside Drive-Clairemont Avenue Historic District includes 23 buildings within the proposed study area, consisting of:**
  - 16 tenement buildings 7 apartment buildings
  - Construction in the study area spans the years 1905-1940, with 1905-1911 representing the peak period of construction
  
- **Multiple Aspects of Significance in accordance with New York City Landmarks Law**
  - Special character that constitutes a distinct section of the city
  - Special historical interest in the areas of:
    - Architecture
    - Social History
  - Special aesthetic interest in the area of Architecture
  - Representative of one or more periods or styles of architecture typical of one or more eras in the history of the city
  
- 3 Prolific architect firms
- These proposed districts connect well with West Harlem in style and architecture.
- Recently provided a walk around tour with LPC.
- Seeking community engagement, buy in and support

**Preservation Analysis Update** - Jeana P. Fletcher, Community Planning Fellow for Manhattan CB 9 Fund for the City of New York

- **Recommendations**

Business development opportunity to fill the need of building repair and elevator maintenance. Introduce programming to reinforce economic and community development through the historic character and a West Harlem Arts and Cultural district. Visioning cultural programming that's in partnership with the commercial corridors. Visibility and workshops of existing and proposed preservation support.

Operational strategies for MBP specific recommendations from 197a plan: facilitate public and private efforts to implement the non-land use recommendations contained in the 197-a Plan through assistance with community benefits agreements with public, private and/or not-for-profit developers engaged in

- identify sites for new public schools and explore strategies to improve services for aged and young people, including consideration of the feasibility of providing multigenerational arts and cultural facilities.
- large-scale development in the district and establishing a Community Trust Fund or similar mechanism funded by developers to pay for proposed community benefits;
  - 5% of New York's population reside in historic districts.
  - 8.4% of jobs are within historic districts.
  - Businesses owned by women and minorities are disproportionately located in historic districts.

**DFRBSP Community Gardener**— Cheree Dillon, Community Garden Renovation

- Nothing new to report.
- 30 gardeners are represented with voices of concern they have brought forward in meetings.
- Will seek support elsewhere if they are unable to receive support from CB9M.

**“Signs of the Times” - Historic Harlem Markers** – Karen D. Taylor, Founder & Executive Director

- Resolution passed in 2020 in concept and content. However, issues regarding the color and the appropriateness of sign type were raised that required engagement with community members.
- The organization has already received a LPC Hearing. CB9M was not informed of this Hearing.
- The organization has engaged DOT and the PDC (Public Design Commission).
- DOT constraints include distance from bus shelters, lamp posts and the curb.
- There is no opposition to the signs' content and preserving Harlem's history is important.
- Community input received is that the type of signs are unattractive, obtrusive and typically found along highways and villages which is not appropriate for the historical context of Harlem.
- There are two signs that will be located on Historic District residential streets.
- The signs are manufactured at Sewah Studios in Marietta Ohio near West Virginia.
- A Grant was received from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation with a core initiative to help organizations celebrate their community's history by providing signage.
- This foundation has mandated that Sewah Studios must be used in order to receive the funding.
- There are 25 markers (7 in MCB9) with installations planned to coincide with this organization's planned programming and events scheduled between 2022 through 2023.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:57pm: Next meeting is Wednesday, September 7, 2022**