

# CB9M Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting, Called to Attention at 7:24pm. (Technical Difficulties)

**Co-Chair:** Hon. Heather Jason

**Committee Members Present:** Hon. Patricia Caldwell, Hon. Heather Jason, and Hon. Hugo Torres-Fetsco.

**Absent Committee Members:** Hon. Dan Cohen, Hon. Carolina Ramirez, and Hon. Liz Waytkus.

## Community Members, Stakeholders, Affiliates and Park Representatives Present

Matt Genrich and Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator (NYC Parks), Stephanie Caban (Riverside Park Outreach Coordinator), Dan Seltzer and Brad Taylor (Friends of Morningside Park), Shannon Richards (142<sup>nd</sup> Dog Run), Leslie Wright (Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRBSP), Simon Rigg (Sculptors Guild), Savona Bailey-McClain (West Harlem Art Fund), and Gwendolyn Black (Visual Arts and Jazzfest).

**MCB9 Members and Staff:** Victor Edwards, Eutha Prince and Madison Ayala.

## New Business: Parks Updates and Announcements

- **NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks:** Matt Genrich
  - Friday June 9th between 3pm-6pm at Frederick Douglass Playground in MCB7, but close enough to MCB9 on Amsterdam between West 100th and 102nd, weather and air quality permitting, there is going to be **Family Day**.
  - **Movie Under the Stars start at approximately 7:30pm:**
  - Thursday June 15th at St. Nicholas Park James Baldwin Lawn at W. 135th
  - Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at Morningside Park ballfield at W 112<sup>th</sup> & Manhattan Ave.
  - Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> Carmansville Playground (Amsterdam between 151<sup>st</sup>-152<sup>nd</sup>)
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth activities at Morningside Park and St. Nicholas Park.
  - ***We've been asking for Porta-Potties at the Harlem Piers Park for a while. People used Fairways restrooms, but they are now closed.***
  - Portable trailer type things may not have spacing for that. Typically we don't use Porta Potty bathrooms. I'll pass it to Steve Simon and Wesley Hamilton.
  - ***Is it possible for the Montefiore Park security guard stations to be reopened and become a kiosk for the arts community to share information? I'm assuming parks controls it, and perhaps with the help of City Councilman Shaun Abreu and other elected officials we could find funding to man it, because when you go down to 42nd Street, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, there's kiosk there where people can walk by and pick up information. I think this is the perfect location that we in the arts community could utilize to share information and let people know what's going on in the community.***

- The park was built through a DDS project with many agencies involved. We are waiting for some work to be finished there with hooking up electrical equipment from ConEd to be able have regular access to the utilities in that building.
  - ***Maybe some kind of racks could be built near it, or around it where you can put stuff in that people can take? Perhaps near the subway station, where monitors with information flash movie premieres on the screen.***
  - In that general area some major ADA MTA upgrades will be going on in the next year. Once that work is complete, maybe DOT can do some sort of way finders in that area.
  - I can look to see if there's some sort of postings that can be done through those windows in some way, for at least community flyers to be posted up.
  - ***Are we going to be showing any movies at the newly renovated Jacob Schiff Sitting Area (Between West 137<sup>th</sup> to 138<sup>th</sup> at Broadway)?***
  - I will look at dates and send those to the board. We have a few things that have been rescheduled because of weather and now we're not getting any rain.
- **Shannon Richards & Stephanie Caban - Riverside Park Outreach Coordinator**
    - Shannon Richards is the volunteer lead for the 142nd Street Dog Run.
    - Through the generosity and efforts of the Conservancy and Parks Department 2 weeks ago removed all the old dirt from the dog run for the first time in 6 years, and laid down a new fresh layer of wood chips.
    - The community should be happy with this improvement to the dust, odor, and flooding issues that we experienced last year over the summer.
    - Summer on the Hudson schedule has been released with curriculum that includes organized youth, adult, and senior programming. It includes a fishing day, some musical activities and a bicycle wide activity.
    - Team Corps Internship is a paid internship for high schoolers. There are a number of seats open that are designated specifically for residents of MCB9.
    - Opportunity for high schoolers who might be interested in horticulture, gardening, parks, and environmental justice.
    - **Flyers were requested for distribution in MCB9.**
    - <https://riversideparknyc.org/summer-on-the-hudson/>
    - <https://riversideparknyc.org/youth-opportunities/>
- **Shannon Richards, 142nd Street Dog Run**
    - Request to Council Member Abreu office with District 7 to add garbage cans on the east side of Riverside Drive from West 135<sup>th</sup> to West 144, because there are none.
    - There is often complaints about dog, garbage and people waste in this area.
- **Leslie Wright: Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRSP):**
    - [Riverbank State Park \(Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park\)](#)
    - [Riverbank State Park | New York NY | Facebook](#)

- June 17<sup>th</sup> will be the celebration of the park turning 30. There will be a big party with music, athletic activities, performances, such as puppet shows.
- Everything will be open and free. Swim, Skate, and ride the Merry-Go-Round.
- Environmental Education Expo, in the Greenhouse and Learning Garden.
- We will celebrate rain or shine. The marching cobra kickoff time is Noon.
- The athletics complex locker room renovation project is complete. The bathrooms and locker room are beautiful.
- The aquatics locker room project is going to start after July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The track and field project is on schedule to be completed in early August.
- The air conditioning in the theater has been postponed for technical reasons. We're going to keep our current system nurtured so that it keeps us all cool and well ventilated through the summer.
- Plenty of spaces available for summer camp. It's an incredible value in terms of affordability and fun for kids 7 to 13 years old.
- It starts approximately July 5<sup>th</sup>, but will send the exact dates. It runs for 5 weeks and is at the Park. They take field trips to other State parks, both in the city and then also upstate. It's really diverse in terms of its activities.
- Roller skating is in session. We are rotating 3 different DJs through the different sessions to give folks a wide variety of music. This has become popular.
- There are outdoor concerts that move to the indoor theater if the weather's bad.
- If there are movies this summer, the schedule will be communicated.
- ***Are there any plans to revitalize and reopen the waterfront amphitheater? It is a gorgeous asset that needs to be revitalized in the park.***
- It is part of our capital plan, but we do not have a date for it yet. There are a few parts. It's also adding restrooms for code compliance and also increase the capacity. It's also completely restoring and repairing the stair and elevator tower including its tiled facade. We have the design funded, but not the actual construction work funded in the coming year.
- ***Maybe the park police can get out of the car and walk around occasionally to curtail the bike riding in the park?***
- Last month NYS Park police graduated its first Academy of new Park Police in 3 years. 12 of those members have been dispatched to NYC. That significantly increases police that'll help with enforcement like the no bike riding rule.
- **Friends of Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park** meets every second Saturday of the month in the Theater Rehearsal Room. (Reminder)
- **Elizabeth Masella, NYC Parks Senior Public Art Coordinator Presentation**
  - Many events planned over the summer, including a couple of art installations.
  - Work with artists, arts organizations, community groups to permit temporary public art exhibitions and perks in all 5 boroughs.
  - We do about 60 to 80 exhibitions a year. Public art installations can take many forms such as murals, fence installations, and public art exhibitions. Many of them are on view for a shorter amount of time.
  - I receive and review the proposals to make sure they are safe, durable, and suitable for the site. They won't impact regular park usage.
  - I also share the proposals and work through the approval process through NYC Parks with our operations staff and our commissioners.

- We have quite a few requirements of all exhibitors. They're responsible for all aspects of the exhibition, including fabrication, transport, installation, and maintenance, removal, and site restoration.
  - They are required to provide general liability insurance and a security deposit to ensure that they will remove the artwork at the end of the exhibition.
  - The exhibition we're sharing this evening is presented by a sculptor skilled in NYC based arts organization that will be in the Morningside Park Pond.
  - It will be on view at the end of this month through the end of November.
  - **Current exhibitions can be found here: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/art>**
  - **Elizabeth.Masella@parks.nyc.gov for any inquiries about temporary public art in NYC parks**
- **Simon Rigg (Sculptors Guild President) Presentation**
    - Oldest artists non-profit in New York City. [sculptorsguild@gmail.com](mailto:sculptorsguild@gmail.com)
    - It's really a celebration of the story and history of the Morningside Pond.
    - The work is in terracotta and it's a kimono. It stands 5 feet high, and it'll be situated close to the willow tree on the island which will literally be floating in in the pond itself in celebration of Suki Ports.
    - Suki Ports is still active in the community from the activist group of 1968.
    - It'll be anchored with cinder block at the Pond base and will float and change direction in the wind.
    - The flower floating works in the pond itself is also in hand with the kimono as part of that recognition of Japanese people.
    - There is no compensation for the usage of the artwork in the parks.
    - It's a privilege of getting a work into the city. Unfortunately we don't get any funding from the city, and our programs have been around for almost 60 years.
    - The application process is open to anyone on a rolling basis. No deadlines.
    - ***Have floating sculptures such been installed anywhere else in NYC?***
    - There was some works in this actual pond, I think back in 2006. The artist Barbara Siegel, had some floating like floral works in the pond.
    - We've also done them in in Prospect Park, and a few other sites in the past without vandalism issues.
- **Savona Bailey-McClain, Executive Director & Chief Curator, West Harlem Art Fund**
    - Former CB9 board member. [westharlemartfund12@gmail.com](mailto:westharlemartfund12@gmail.com)
    - Organization is partnering with Simon Brigg and the Sculptor Guild to do a broader project we're calling it the **Harlem Sculpture Walk**.
    - Hoping to place sculptures in Morningside, Saint Nicholas and Jackie Robinson Parks in spring 2024, through late fall 2024.
    - This will be a large scale project. We will have selection committees where the public can join for a sculpture performance, particularly dance and sound art. Therefore citizens of West Harlem can rank the submissions and share their feedback and have a voice in the process.
    - We'll return in October and will have completed our open call for Harlem artists of color around the city.

- We will be accepting both individual and team submissions. Therefore, people who may have never presented sculpture before, may feel more confident if they do it with others, and that increases opportunity for everyone.
  
- **Gwendolyn Black, Founder & Producer Visual Arts and Jazzfest(tm)**
  - **Email: [gwenblackarts@yahoo.com](mailto:gwenblackarts@yahoo.com), [www.artsandjazzfestny.com](http://www.artsandjazzfestny.com)**
  - This year marks the 20th year for our annual Arts and Jazzfest, NYC festival.
  - We have been on a mission for 35 years celebrating the visual side of jazz.
  - I wanted folks to understand that there was a history to jazz artists like Romare Bearden and Fred Norman and so many others of that era.
  - It's to celebrate jazz around the world. I felt we needed more recognition. That's how the festival came about.
  - We want young people to be able to tap into the history of jazz as well as tap into their own artistic talents.
  - Saturday June 24th we're going to be at the Montefiore Park.
  - If you want to set up a table and share information, we welcome you.
  - We're going to have live jazz music, puppeteers, and art making.
  - It's going to be a fun Community Day with a DJ.
  - Francisco Catlett, son of the legendary sculptor Elizabeth Catlett will be there.
  
- **Brad Taylor, Friends of Morningside Park**
  - [www.morningsidepark.org](http://www.morningsidepark.org), @NYCMorningside on IG, FB and Twitter
  - Faces of Harlem is returning on August 5<sup>th</sup> for the third year.
  - Susan Stair is doing an amazing project called "Setting the Stage for Climate Change" which will be up on the stairs at 116<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - We're having a "Trashion Show" Design Shows which will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. These are workshops where people can build their fashion designs on June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-7:30pm at Dwyer Cultural Center.
  - Walk the runway this fall as part of the annual "Our Common Ground Festival" on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - We would like to do something at the pond to commemorate the protesters and have some sort of permanent signage there.
  - I drafted up a resolution having been on the Community Board for 10 years, and chair of this committee for some of those, and vice chair for others.
  
- **Are there any Old Business Updates?**
  - **The West Harlem Historic District Conference is taking place on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at the City College School of Architecture between 9am to 4pm.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:25pm. Respectfully submitted by Heather Jason.**