



**COMMUNITY BOARD 9 MANHATTAN**  
**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Hon. Alexander Abraham Ximenes called the meeting of the CB9M Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee to Attention at 6:36 PM EST, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Co-Chair Hon. Alexander Abraham Ximenes, Co-Chair Hon. Kristina Maria Lopez, Hon. Andrea Brecker, Hon. Patricia Caldwell (late)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Hon. Marquis Bell (Unexcused), Hon. Gregory Brito (Unexcused) and Hon. Dejon Delpino (Excused)

**QUORUM**

A quorum was established at 6:59PM with four committee members present.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The February 4, 2026 agenda was adopted and distributed.  
The February 2026 minutes were not formally adopted.

**SUMMARY**

The Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee meeting was called to order with new co- chairs Hon. Alexander Abraham Ximenez and Hon. Kristina Lopez, who introduced themselves and their backgrounds in housing rights and community advocacy. The meeting featured presentations on capital projects and programming at various parks, including Riverbank State Park's renovation plans and upcoming Harlem Sculpture Gardens installations. The group discussed upcoming events and nature-based programs in parks, reviewed landmarks permits and violations, and addressed infrastructure projects and property development proposals, including funding requests and concerns about specific renovation projects. CB9 Chair, Hon. Victor Edwards (virtual), 1st Vice Chair, Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, and Board Member Hon. Heather Jason joined the meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Riverbank State Park, Capital Needs & Projects**

Presented by Leslie Wright, Director at the New York City Regional Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Leslie Wright presented an overview of Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park in Harlem, highlighting its extensive facilities and programming. She discussed the park's history, current operations, and upcoming capital projects. The presentation also covered ongoing renovations, such as the North Stair Tower and softball field, as well as future projects like facade replacements and playground upgrades. There is a \$215M investment from the state happening and their fiscal year ends March 31st. Gov. Hochul committed to allocating \$20M for Riverbank to advance selected elements. The State Parks Commissioner has promised an additional \$20M from the state budget. Wright noted this is a great start, and they are eager and hopeful. In order to keep the park open they are not doing all the work at once. Hopeful that with investment, facade repair work will begin in 2027.

### **Harlem Sculpture Gardens**

Savona Bailey-McClain, Executive Director & Chief Curator at the West Harlem Art Fund

The presentation gave an overview of the upcoming art exhibition across Harlem parks, featuring new sculptures and installations by various artists including a windmill prototype by Chris Sancomb and a unique mural cloth piece by Joseph Eduardo Iacona. The exhibition will run from May 2nd to October 30th, with a private event on May 15th. Bailey-McClain also reviewed plans for nature-based programs in the parks, including birding events, stargazing, and picture walks, with a focus on engaging residents and promoting environmental stewardship.

## **PARKS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**

### **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park, Leslie Wright**

Ice skating, figure skating, Black History Month concert.

### **Riverside Park Conservancy, Stephanie Caban**

Teen Corps program at Riverside Park, offering high school students an opportunity to learn about environmental justice and receive a stipend for their participation.

### **Friends of St. Nicholas Park, Karen Asner**

Upcoming Earth Day events hosted with AKA sorority.

### **NYC Parks Historic Harlem Parks, Tapashi Narine:**

Announced the Jackie Robinson Day Festival on April 18th and a Women's History Month event in Central Park on March 15th.

### **NYC Parks Regional Director, Matt Genrich, Stephen Cunningham**

Stephen Cunningham discussed ongoing hiring needs for park staff, including CDL drivers, and mentioned the completion of snow operations. Matt provided updates on upcoming events, including a My Park Day at Montefiore Square and a Garden

Carpentry workshop. The group also discussed the recent opening of Anibal Avilez Playground and reminded attendees to apply early for permitted events in parks.

### **OLD BUSINESS UPDATES**

- Discussion of site visits of 451 Convent Avenue, 726 and 722 St. Nicholas Avenue
- The board also addressed concerns about a property development proposal at 426 West 144th Street, where the developer claimed the community board failed to provide input, though it was later clarified that the board had requested neighbor feedback before the LPC hearing.
  - Hon. Heather Jason shared that the LPC stated they received no communications from the committee at the hearing for this project. At 7:30pm the committee voted on a motion to share our resolution regarding this project, clarifying the asks we put forth to the LPC.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A discussion about the preservation of a building owned by Convent Avenue Baptist Church was brought up. Hon. Caldwell shared details on steps being taken.
- Karen Asner reminded attendees of a deadline for submitting testimony on a proposed development project at 1727 Amsterdam Avenue.
- Reviewed LPC permits and violations for Manhattan Community Board 9, noting no violations and several applications for repairs and alterations.
- The group discussed the 2027 preliminary budget, focusing on a request to improve access to parks and playgrounds, particularly the repair of stairs and playgrounds at St. Nicholas Park. Karen Asner noted that she's hopeful there will be more information on this update soon.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Reach out to Tapashi Narine, NYC Parks in regard to tabling at Jackie Robinson Day in April.
- Resolution re: 426 w 144 street

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 6:30PM EST.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM EST.

*Minutes respectfully organized and submitted with AI assistance by Hon. Kristina Maria Lopez*