

CB9M Landmarks Preservations & Parks Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting, Called to Attention at 6:39pm

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

Committee Members Present: Hon. Elizabeth Waytkus and Hon. Heather Jason

New Business: NYC Parks and The Hort Updates & Announcements

- **Riverside Park Conservancy** “Summer on the Hudson” 2022 flyer below and volunteers are always needed.
- [summer-on-the-hudson-events-calendar_6247422eb54ba.pdf \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- It’s My Park Volunteer Schedule: [Volunteer: It's My Park - City Parks Foundation](#)
- **City Parks SUMMERSTAGE Schedule:**
[Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage - City Parks Foundation](#)
- **ST. NICHOLAS PARK-** James Baldwin Lawn- May 22, 2022 Movie Showing
- **ST NICHOLAS PARK PLAZA-** National Tap Dance Day May 24, 2022
- **ST NICHOLAS PARK and Morningside Park-** Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 18th
- **Morningside Park** Global Running Day Open Run June 1, 2022: [NYRR Open Run](#)
- **New York Road Runners Open Run** [Morningside Park \(nyrr.org\)](#) Saturdays 9:00am
- Water Main Break on Riverside Drive at West 142nd Street next to Dog Run coordinated with DOT, Parks, and DEM from February. Water lines will be repaired ASAP. Comfort Stations are in the process of being restored.
- **West Harlem Piers** Events Schedule [West Harlem Piers Events : NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- **Let The Music Play**, Ralph Ellison Memorial –(Sundays between 2pm-4pm) Berta Alloway
- **Donnellan Square, West 150th Street** – Improvements, cleaning and cultural events considered. Community engagement to present concerts and events related to the history of the area. Feature local musicians and music of the Harlem Renaissance on Saturday afternoons in June TBD. info@harlemonestop.org
- **Montefiore Square, Hamilton Pl & W 138th Street-** Green Market is not permitted for revenue through a NYC agency, but verification is required.
- **City Nature Challenge 2022: New York City** (connect with nature and help us make as many iNaturalist observations as we can April 29th –May 2nd). [City Nature Challenge 2022: New York City · iNaturalist](#) (Treasure hunt in city parks and id natural elements.)
- **City College Center for the Arts**, [City College Center for the Arts](#) June Schedule

- **City College Center for the Arts & The National Jazz Museum in Harlem presents IDILE Sounds of Jazz and Orishas by Melvis Santa May 19-20, 2022** [City College Center for the Arts & The National Jazz Museum in Harlem presents IDILE Sounds of Jazz and Orishas by Melvis Santa – National Jazz Museum in Harlem \(jmih.org\)](#)
- **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park “I Love My Park Day”** Saturday May 7, 2022
- **Jane’s Walk 2022** www.mas.org/janes-walk-2022 **May 6 -May 8, 2022**
- **Jane’s Walk 2022 Survey** [2022 Jane's Walk Attendee Post Event Survey FINAL \(typeform.com\)](#)

- **THE HORT Spring 2022 Programming April through June**
 - Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am – Plant Based Cooking with the Community Classes
 - Wednesdays 1-3pm – Open Garden Tours. No Registration required. Tropical plants.
 - Thursdays 5pm – Local Artists (print making, nature photographer, and herbalist)
 - Saturdays 11am – Harlem Hikes (walk around the garden and bird watch)
 - Saturdays 11:30am – Family Gardening with activities for kids and adults (plant seeds)
- Please see www.greenhouseeducationcenter.org, email education@thehort.org or call 917-902-3940 for additional details.

- **New York "Blue Bulls" Youth Soccer Team**, organized by Hugo Tirado previously utilized the **Jacob H. Schiff Playground** (Amsterdam between West 136th and 138th is undergoing renovations.)
 - Mr. Tirado has been a resident of West 136th Street in CB9M since 2005.
 - He started the youth soccer team in 2012 which provides programming for approximately 60 -70 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13.
 - Money is raised for equipment and uniforms by selling snacks and beverages.
 - He is currently seeking alternative space for a soccer practice field.
 - Language barriers may have impeded communications that this playground would be undergoing renovations.
 - Mr. Tirado previously renewed his permits in person on 66th Street and has copies of these previously issued permits.
 - This permit office closed during the pandemic. Mr. Tirado has language and technology challenges and had difficulty applying online or understanding the online process. Unfortunately, his group’s previous practice time slot was given to another organization.
 - NYC Parks claims that all permit holders were notified prior to construction of the closure.
 - It is typical that Parks Permits prioritize youth sports activities.
 - The playground is scheduled to re-open in 2023.

- Mr. Tirado is exploring soccer field areas and a permit outside CB9M at 175th and Ft. Washington as an alternative.
- **472 West 145th Street (Between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues) Railing and Gates – Metropolis Group, Landmarks Preservation Commission(LPC) Letter of Support (LOS)**
 - The original application **PROPOSED: THE NEW IRON FENCE AND OPENINGS IN LOW CONCRETE WALL**
 - This property contributes to the Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill Historic District.
 - The applicant states that this is a single family rowhouse with owners who are seeking to close the front yard opening to the sidewalk which will provide protection from drug users, defecation in the areaway, and garbage dumping.
 - The applicant claims that there has been multiple police calls to the property.
 - There is an increased feeling of being unsafe. A fence at the front and side will protect the owner occupants from some of the elements mentioned above.
 - Additionally, the applicant wishes to remove part of the two inner areaway low concrete walls on both sides of the path leading to the main entrance.
 - Both of these low concrete walls contain planters the applicant claims are difficult to water the plants and clean the accumulating debris.
 - The removal of part of the lower concrete walls prompted the LOS from LPC.
 - The CB9M committee members and public input do not support the partial removal of the lower concrete walls to provide openings.
 - There is a secondary door leading into the left facing areaway from the rowhouse and a proposed gate from the street which will provide access for watering the plants and cleaning.
 - The right facing side planter area contains existing basement access steel doors into the planter area.
 - The height of the low concrete wall is insignificant and believed to be 12” to 18.”
 - The applicant also desired to paint the lower concrete walls all black which LPC and the CB9M committee members do not support.
 - Masonry repairs to the low concrete walls are included and supported.
 - LPC has designated that the lower concrete wall must be painted brown or the same color that currently exists and matches the cornice. Present CB9M and public input concur with this requirement.
 - The applicant wishes to use the ornamental detail from the existing window bars to replicate the detail of proposed railings and gates. It was advised that the proposed design should not be over stated if the detail presented is not original.
 - New fences are proposed on the front center of the entrance path and left facing entrance to a garden pot area.
 - The front center gate will be centered on the rowhouse entrance door and will be set back approximate two feet in order for the railing to follow the curvature of the existing low concrete wall.

- Railings will not penetrate, but will be installed over the front low concrete walls adjacent to the sidewalk are proposed to align with the height of the gates.
 - The installation of the railings and gates as described herein is supported. However, the partial removal of the low concrete walls is not supported. It is believed that this concrete wall removal will disrupt the continuity of the surrounding property lower concrete walls which are continuous in nature.
 - The LPC Public Hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2022.
- **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DF RBSP) Community Gardeners' Resolution**
 - "This set of Gardeners (The Gardeners and They) claim that there are approximately 60 beds which represents on average a family of three. Therefore, these Gardeners claim that for the past 30 years they have fed their families which could include approximately 5,000 people i.e. 30 yearsx60 bedsx3=5,400.
 - They do not wish to be downsized or reduce the size of the beds by 30% to accommodate the need of the community programming offered by The Hort.
 - They claim to have 20 Gardeners working on this submitted draft Resolution.
 - All the Gardeners including this set of 20 now support the renovation.
 - The existing Gardeners have been promised by DF RBSP to receive an extra year of gardening due to limited access that occurred during their first year of a two year lottery term due to the pandemic when alternate access days were given.
 - This extra time provided to all Gardeners will conclude November 30, 2022.
 - The Gardeners claim The Hort programming reached 1,500 people in Harlem.
 - This set of Gardeners claim The Hort has not fulfilled expectations.
 - Why is it that any complaints about The Hort not fulfilling expectations is being brought to the attention of CB9M now that a Re-Design/Renovation is occurring?
 - There has been a Composting and access to seedlings expectation since 2017.
 - They wish to call a Community Forum to discuss their re-design of the Garden.
 - This set of Gardeners request that The Hort be given less space because 2 people per available garden bed showed up for the most recent Garden bed lottery.
 - They believe there has been no real negotiation with DF RBSP and The Hort. They want to negotiate the final design. They feel that they are being dismissed.
 - They want the Community Board to support a pause in the design and the reallocation of the beds in favor of the Gardeners whose use is personal/private.
 - They want an agreement made by all parties regarding privatizing public space.
 - They claim that kids are not at The Hort often.
 - They feel the proposed fence in the current design which separates The Hort from the Gardeners represents a concept that "we are not sharing with you."
 - They do not like or understand the concept that "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors" and request that the fence is not included in their final design."

Meeting Adjourned at 9:19pm. Minutes submitted by Honorable Heather Jason.