



**CB9M LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Heather Jason, called the regular meeting of the CB9M Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee to Order at 6:39 PM EDT, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom conferencing.

**COMMITTEE**

Co-Chair Hon. Heather Jason; Co-Chair Hon. Annette Robinson; Hon. April Adams; Hon. Patricia Caldwell; Hon. Daniel Cohen; Hon. Elisa Yoo; and Hon. Liz Waytkus

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND IN-PERSON**

Co-Chair Hon. Heather Jason; Co-Chair Hon. Annette Robinson; Hon. Hon. Patricia Caldwell; Hon. Liz Waytkus; and Hon. Elisa Yoo

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/OR VIRTUAL**

Hon. Daniel Cohen (absent); April Adams (excused)

**GUESTS PRESENT IN-PERSON**

None

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS**

Hon. Victor Edwards

**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 (National Park Service); Stephanie Caban (North Park Outreach Coordinator, Riverside Park Conservancy); Shannon Richards (142nd Street Dog Run); Matt Genrich (NYC Parks); Tapashi Narine (NYC Parks Historic Harlem Parks Administrator); Rachel Zurier (Friends of St. Nicholas Park); Judi Desire (Saint Nicholas Miracle Garden and Uptown Good Food Farm Stand); Ira Gershenhorn (Super Stewards Program, NYC Parks); (Nina Talley (Edgecombe Garden Park Sanctuary); Claudette Brady (Save Harlem Now) Cheree Dillon (Friendship (Wicked) Garden and West 150th St. Block Association).

**QUORUM**

A quorum was established with five voting members present.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The agenda and the minutes from February 7, 2024 were adopted.



## **PARKS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**

### **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRBSP): Leslie Wright**

- The first Saturday in May is ***I Love My Park Day*** in all NYS parks. 9am Kickoff with calisthenics and music. Early comers will receive a T-Shirt. There will be many cleanup opportunities. Everyone is invited.
- Permits are required for picnic groups larger than 10 people.
- On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, experience **Compagnia de'Colombari's *Whitman on Walls!* (WOW!)** inside the Robert Frederick Smith Center for Performing Arts in partnership with Harlem Arts Alliance and many other organizations. This is styled as a "slam poetry reading meets a movie screening" where different acclaimed poets and artists will give their reactions to Whitman's "Song of Myself," a "barbaric yawp" celebrating freedom, inclusion, and democracy. Please register in advance through the website links.
- Summer Camp Registration is open for 6 to 13 year olds.
- The Community Garden is open for the second term of a two year cycle.
- NYC GreenThumb contacted us about Community Garden opportunities at Edgecombe Garden Sanctuary and others in MCB9. We will be sharing this information with our gardeners and those waitlisted for beds.
- Concern expressed about the State Park Police enforcement of the no bike riding policy in the park.

### **Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park - Greenhouse & Education Center: Mallory Craig**

- Our website: [www.thehort.org/events](http://www.thehort.org/events) and email [programs@thehort.org](mailto:programs@thehort.org) or [mcraig@thehort.org](mailto:mcraig@thehort.org)
- April was very busy with a seed celebration to kick off the season. Urban gardeners exchanged seeds.
- There was a Water Conservation Festival for Earth Day where waterways were explored and how water channels can be steward. There was artmaking, flower essences made, a hydration station and games.
- The garden is very much alive in addition to our greenhouse and kitchen.
- Art in the Garden: Funky Floral Collages with Kraig Blue, Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm.
- Sawmill Herb Farm CSA will be starting soon. In addition to our regular food, we will be cooking food and sourcing herbs from local farms. Each week expect a new plant and herb profile. Folks want to make their own medicines and learn herbalism. Please continue to visit and explore these offerings.
- The greenhouse offers free field trips to all schools in MCB9. Partnering with the DOE on climate action days and create the relevant curriculum.
- We have a seed library donated by the Burpee Foundation. If there are special seeds such as pollinators that you are looking for, then we can create specialized seed packets.
- Sauté Sizzle Savor: Tuesdays 11am-12pm, Recipes & Rituals for Community Care: Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm, Art & AgriCulture: Thursdays 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please see the full schedule in the link below:
- [https://thehort-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mcraig\\_thehort\\_org/ERxwKgwGTYFMslIP\\_f8HK90Bwa7jaCzmvKZGT6vTFB00kA?e=Wji3xv](https://thehort-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mcraig_thehort_org/ERxwKgwGTYFMslIP_f8HK90Bwa7jaCzmvKZGT6vTFB00kA?e=Wji3xv)
- Plant giveaways occur every few months. The Greenhouse is open to the public daily.
- <https://www.explorableplaces.com/places/the-horticultural-society-of-new-york>

### **National Park Service (NPS) (Grant's Tomb & Hamilton Grange): Callie Tominsky**

- NPS Job Opportunity: Teacher Ranger Teacher: A program that hosts K through 12 teachers during the summers at various national parks across the nation. We have been approved for funding to host a Teacher Ranger at Stonewall National Monument in The Village and at St. Paul's Church, National Historical site, which is north of the city, but still within commuting distance. The program is in collaboration with the University of Colorado at Denver, as well as the NPS. The selected candidates for



this position will help with park operations. Candidates will create an educational product for the park, which is curriculum standardized and they also will participate in a graduate level course with UC Denver. At the end of the summer program, the candidate receives a stipend of \$3,000.

- **Teacher-Ranger-Teacher: The National Parks Service | Teacher Ranger Teacher Program**
- We are also recruiting Park Rangers at both sites in MCB9. The general requirements are at least one year of experience within any kind of customer service job or bachelor's degree. Seasonal Park Ranger Position with NPS: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/788823100#>
- Volunteer opportunities: [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov) (search General Grant or Hamilton Grange). We are always recruiting volunteers. Hamilton Grange volunteers can give tours or work in our gardens.
- The benches around Grant's Tomb were a community project in collaboration with City Arts on how to properly maintain those benches and keep them looking beautiful.
- The summer plan is to continue Jazz at Grant's Tomb and we will host *A Great Day in Harlem* in August.
- [callie\\_tominsky@nps.gov](mailto:callie_tominsky@nps.gov)

#### **GreenThumb and Community Garden Announcements**

- Judi Desire- **St. Nicholas Miracle Garden** member. 330 Saint Nicholas Avenue between West 126<sup>th</sup> and West 127<sup>th</sup> Streets. May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5pm is *My Volunteer Day*. We are building a Greenhouse in the garden and always looking for administrative people to help us maintain the garden. <https://stnicholasmiraclegarden.org/>, Volunteer list, <https://forms.gle/ZKb4aKfZGyysD2h39>  
**GreenThumb Open Garden Day** is the first June weekend, June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will unveil the garden and provide information about membership, programming and volunteering.  
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/open-garden-nyc>
- Ira Gershenhorn- **Jenny's Garden AKA Riverside Valley Community Garden** at 699 West 138th Street (12th Avenue corner), Saturday and Sunday, May 4th and 5th are our big planting days and we need lots of volunteers. The beds being planted go to a community soup kitchen. [ira@gershenhorn.com](mailto:ira@gershenhorn.com) or [jennysgarden138@gmail.com](mailto:jennysgarden138@gmail.com), <https://www.instagram.com/jennysgarden138/> Jenny's Garden on Instagram.
- Cheree Dillon- **Friendship (Wicked) Garden** 499 West 150<sup>th</sup> between Amsterdam and Broadway. Plant Sale Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4pm. We have flowers for tree beds and vegetables. Additionally, we will have a block party in August.  
[https://www.cognitofirms.com/West150thStBlockAssociation/\\_2024W150thStPlantSaleOrderForm](https://www.cognitofirms.com/West150thStBlockAssociation/_2024W150thStPlantSaleOrderForm)
- Nina Talley- **Edgecombe Garden Park Sanctuary** 339 Edgecombe Avenue at West 149<sup>th</sup> Street across from Jackie Robinson Park. *Open Garden Day*. We will provide a history of the garden, promote volunteerism and membership. It will be a Star Wars theme. May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you! Saturday from noon to 4pm.  
[https://www.instagram.com/Edgecombe\\_Avenue\\_Garden](https://www.instagram.com/Edgecombe_Avenue_Garden), [Edgecombeavenuegardens@gmail.com](mailto:Edgecombeavenuegardens@gmail.com)

#### **Riverside Park Conservancy: Stephanie Caban**

- Volunteer Coordinator for the northern section of the park between 120<sup>th</sup> and 181<sup>st</sup> Streets. We are located between 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 181<sup>st</sup> Street.
- [Stephanie@riversideparknyc.org](mailto:Stephanie@riversideparknyc.org), 646-899-5694 (call or text!) for volunteer opportunities.
- Partnered with High School of Math, Science & Engineering at City College. They have been helping us maintain the Ralph Ellison Memorial Park at West 150th Street.
- The goats will be coming to West 143<sup>rd</sup> Street. Our kick off celebration will be July 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm.



- Every second Tuesday of the month will be a trash pickup day.
- *The Riverkeeper Sweep* which is a coastal cleanup will occur May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm.  
<https://riversideparknyc.org/events/?selected=volunteer>
- *Sandsational* on May eighteenth is when we take out all the sand from the sandboxes and put in new sand. We are starting up a volunteer program at General Grant's Tomb in collaboration with City Arts.
- Billion Oyster Project (BOP) Presentation May 4<sup>th</sup> on the Baylander at 125th Street in West Harlem Piers Park from 12pm to 2pm. Dance fitness at 11am every Saturday at West Harlem Piers Park.
- The Birding Club meets the last Saturday of the month at West 116th Street. We have concerts at 2pm on Sundays May 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Play dates which are family friendly, especially for the little ones, occur on the second Saturday of the month, starting May 11<sup>th</sup>, at West Harlem Piers Park. There will be puppets.
- Friday freshen up music, specifically a Jazz Music Festival at 7pm, May 30<sup>th</sup> at West Harlem Piers Park.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate Black Birders Week, with a birding event on West 157<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway.
- Teen Corps - paid high school internship this summer: <https://riversideparknyc.org/youth-opportunities/>
- The West 148<sup>th</sup> Street staircase is still closed.
- We are still waiting on DOT permits to be processed for the 142nd Street Dog Run.
- Jenny's Garden will be receiving new fencing at West 138<sup>th</sup> Street.
- <https://riversideparknyc.org/summer-on-the-hudson/> Free summer programs (more than 300 programs all summer long)

#### **Friends of St. Nicholas Park: Rachel Zurier**

- The Earth Day Festival was Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 12pm to 4pm. Nearly 100 volunteers participated. The event was in partnership with AKA Sorority which had a big alumni turnout.
- We picked up dozens of bags of trash, and it was all led by Adrian of the trash project who has a wonderful exhibit at City College. Tons of people brought their kids. There was an AKA Sorority dance party.
- Today Adrian did a cleanup with Randolph High School, located at 135<sup>th</sup> and St. Nicholas Avenue. We have another high school clean up scheduled on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We're trying to leverage these neighborhood school relationships because a lot of these kids need community service hours, and the principals are often super dedicated and want the kids to feel involved in the neighborhood.
- St. Nicholas Park hosts a free concert series on Saturday, May 11, 2024 featuring (Michael Shekwoaga) and May 18, 2024 (Ekep Nkwelle) at 1pm to 2:30 pm as part of the new concert series, Sounds at St. Nick. Hosted and curated by renowned jazz vocalist Tyreek McDole. The free events take place at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza and James Baldwin Lawn. The event is organized by Friends of St. Nicholas Park with support from NYC Parks, West Harlem Development Corporation, EBAR Studio, and Harlem One Stop.
- Monthly cleanups are continuing May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 10<sup>th</sup> through November.
- We're hoping to have the return of weekly free Yoga in the Park. We were collaborating with Harlem Wellness Center the last few summers and will probably start in June and run through September.
- The cleanups are on Saturdays and will have a nice synergy with the farmers market. Yoga was previously on Tuesday nights and will likely be on a weekday evening, but the schedule is to be determined.



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

- [Tapashi.narine@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Tapashi.narine@parks.nyc.gov)
- *Movies under the Stars* at James Baldwin Lawn at 135th Street and Saint Nicholas Avenue on May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 11th and May 18th there are Jazz concerts curated by Tariq at St. Nicholas Park.
- Ruby Bridges movie at St. Nicholas Park: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/st-nicholas-park/events/2024/05/17/movies-under-the-stars-series-ruby-bridges>
- Morningside Park this weekend. There's a community cookout on May 4th from noon to 4pm.
- <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/morningside-park/events/2024/05/04/horse-of-course>
- Parks is also bringing the horse of course program which are the Park Enforcement horses. The officers will give a presentation on the history of horses with enforcement from 2pm to 3pm.
- This week is the Harlem Sculpture Garden opening that Savona Bailey-McClain from the West Harlem Art Fund presented last month. All the sculptures except 3 have been installed. The opening day is tomorrow at noon. There are 7 art pieces in each of the 3 parks i.e. Morningside, St. Nicholas and Jackie Robinson.
- We have paid summer internships for college age students at the rate of \$18 an hour for the 3 months. Internships at Parks: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/internships>

#### **NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks: Matt Genrich**

- On May 11th there will be a family fun day at Jacob Schiff Park on the athletic field from 12pm to 3pm.
- Frederick Douglas May 25th: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2024/05/25/family-fun-day-at-frederick-douglass-playground>
- May 12th with Brotherhood Sister Sol, West Harlem Art Fund, and the Borough President's office, there will be a tree giveaway at 135th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. The registration is already full for the tree giveaways, but it does say online for those who weren't able to register, after 3 pm, they take walk-ins.
- Tree Give Away: <https://www.nyrp.org/en/get-involved/events/tree-giveaway-brotherhood-sister-sol-and-west-harlem-art-fund/>
- Planning to have Jazz in June every Saturday from 6pm to 7pm at Montefiore Square Park on West 137<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway
- Requested information about Porta Potties which were a big success last year. However, Wesley Hamilton was not available due to a technical issue to provide a status update.

#### **NEW BUSINESS, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Uptown Good Food Farmers Market:** Judi Desire, Executive Director, Uptown & Boogie Healthy Project 501(c)(3), St Nicholas Ave &, W 137th St.

- Every Saturday June 1st - November 23rd 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM St. Nicholas Park at Saint Nicholas Avenue and West 137th Street, Harlem, NY 10030, 347-391-7189, [ugf@ubhealthyproject.org](mailto:ugf@ubhealthyproject.org)
- <https://www.uptowngoodfood.com/> <https://ubhealthyproject.org/>
- We are at St. Nicholas Park, on the bottom of the hill. This year we're excited to have meat and seafood. There's a goat farmer who is coming from upstate New York once a month to sell her goat meat.
- We're finalizing permits.
- We're going to continue having cooking Demos. We rescued a lot of clothing and the drop off is returning.
- Kids Zone programming was very successful. We gave kids \$2 to shop at the market for fruits and vegetables. We accept SNAP/EBT, Health Bucks, FMNP, OTB Network and FreshConnect.



- We're looking for farmers, florists, baked goods, and cheese. We have some of the meat covered. We're looking for a mushroom vendor, chocolate sellers, and honey.
- This year we have a new farmers market on White Plains Road. We feel like we can hire only seasonal positions. We welcome another farmers' market manager to learn and help us with youth programming.
- We want to create more events at the market and are one of the partners for Harlem Week in August.
- New York Road Runner Harlem 5K will occur on August 10th. Normally that would interrupt the farmers market. Relocation to West 137th Street allows the racing path to continue and not interrupt the market.
- Uptown Good Food Farm Stand Every Thursday June 6th - October 31st from 4pm - 7pm at St. Nicholas Miracle Garden, 330 Saint Nicholas Avenue Harlem, NY 10027, 347-391-7189
- [ugf@ubhealthyproject.org](mailto:ugf@ubhealthyproject.org) <https://ubhealthyproject.org/> <https://www.uptowngoodfood.com/>
- We take all the nutritional benefit programs.
- Judi accepted the Invitation by Hon. Caldwell to participate in the Senior Resource Fair on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**The Kota Alliance, Inc.** - 43 St. Nicholas Place, NY, NY 10031, **Michael Mattson, noroof architects and Jaana Rehnstrom MD MPH, Founder and President**

- **LPC-24-07671** application for egress bulkhead, windows and doors.
- The applicant did not show up or cancel in advance this scheduled presentation for the requested changes to include the alternative bulkhead placement with height reduction, and to answer clarifying questions.
- It was requested and confirmed that the letter would state that the roof be unoccupied and that Kota is required to perform more community outreach.
- The LPC Public Hearing is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> for this application.
- Discussed the LPC Hearing Letter of Disapproval affirmed by the Executive Committee with friendly revisions.

**Save Harlem Now!** [www.saveharlemnow.org](http://www.saveharlemnow.org) – **Claudette Brady, Executive Director**

- We are planning additional district outreach meetings as a follow up to our April 6<sup>th</sup> Conference.
- We continue to work with LPC and monitor Harlem buildings through the same list that MCB9 receives, and are also interested in coordinating testimony for the May 21<sup>st</sup> upcoming LPC Public Hearing.
- Our Inaugural Gene Norman Preservation Awards Gala is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month and our honorees are Michael Henry Adams, Mussenden Van Der Zee, and New York State Senator Cordell Cleare.

**OLD BUSINESS UPDATES**

- West Harlem Historic District and Morningside Heights Historic District have not been calendared by LPC.
- There was a request to review the LPC MCB9 permit list during the monthly committee meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM EDT.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Jason.