



CB9M LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Veronica Savage called the meeting of the CB9M Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee to Attention at 6:35 PM EST, on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 because quorum was not established. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom conferencing.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND IN-PERSON

Co-Chair Hon. Veronica Savage, Co-Chair Hon. Marquis Bell, Hon. Abraham Alexander (late), Hon. Andrea Brecker, Hon. Dejon Delpino (late), Hon. Heather Jason, and Hon. Kristina Maria Lopez (late)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

Hon. Patricia Caldwell [Absent-Unexcused], Hon. Gregory Brito [Absent-Unexcused] and Hon. Tiago Kiel [Absent-Unexcused]

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); Ashenique Rodriguez (NYC Parks); Matt Genrich (Regional Director, NYC Parks); Shannon Richards, Dog Run 142, Elizabeth Masella (NYC Parks) and Brett Cook (Artist Presenter).

QUORUM

A quorum was established at 7:00 PM with seven committee members present and in person.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

The October 8, 2025 agenda was adopted and June and September 2025 minutes were adopted.

INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Co-Chair Veronica Savage highlighted that the committee roster has been cleaned up and had an accurate listing of 10 members.
- The committee welcomed newly appointed Co-Chair Marquis Bell. Deep appreciation was extended to outgoing Co-Chair Heather Jason for her invaluable expertise, dedication to community partnership-building, and the strong structural foundation she established for the committee's continued growth.

PRESENTATIONS

St. Nicholas Park – Public Art Installation of [Greg Tate Horus in Harlem](#) at 133rd Street

Presenters: Elizabeth Masella (NYC Parks), Brett Cook (Artist)

- Project Overview: The mid-October art installation is a piece honoring local Harlem hero Greg Tate, a visionary writer, musician and cultural architect who reshaped Black music and thought. A long-time critic for The Village Voice, Tate who focused on African American music and culture and was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize Special Citation award in 2024 for his literary contributions.
- The central part of the artwork is made of two 4'X8' plywood panels framed with wood and plexiglass drawings, and wood brooms that extend approximately 3 ft. on both sides.

- Proposed Site: West 133rd Street and St. Nicholas Avenue secured to the metal fences that face the street with metal ties, steel airline cables and fasteners.
- Timeline: The art piece will be unveiled on October 19th from 12PM-4PM at 133rd Street and St. Nicholas and will be up for public view for a 12 month period.
- The unveiling on 10/19 will also feature live performances from Burn Sugar, the musical ensemble Tate founded.
- Responses: Presenters confirmed that the piece was designed to withstand the winter elements and foster intergenerational dialogue and connection within the community.

PARKS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:

Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park (DFRBSP): Leslie Wright

- All fall park programming is in full swing.
- **October events and programming were shared and can be viewed at [Riverbank State Park \(Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park\)](#)**

(DFRBSP) Greenhouse Education Center & Learning Garden: Mallory Craig

- 18 applications were received for high school internships resume in mid-October with \$100 honorarium, community service hours and 2 available slots remain.
- Letter of interest for internship can be sent to programs@thehort.org
- Additional free public programs for October can be viewed at www.thehort.org/events.

NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks: Ashenique Rodriguez

Ashenique Rodriguez, new Project Development Coordinator shared October programming. She highlighted:

- Park Clean-Up Announced St. Nicholas Park (Oct 11), and Morningside Park (Oct 11)
- Marcus Garvey Park, OpenHouse NY Mount Morris Fire Watchtower (Oct 19, 1-3PM)
- Halloween Movie Night, St. Nicholas Park (Oct 18, 5-8PM)
- All October Events and Programming [listed here](#)

NYC Parks, Regional Director: Matt Genrich

- Matt announced renovations at Alexander Hamilton basketball court were complete and courts were opened.
- Flyers sent to the Community Board Office. All October Events and Programming [listed here](#)
- Artwork from Harlem Sculpture Gardens available for viewing until the end of October.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES/ Landmarks Preservation Property Improvement Concerns

- The committee reviewed September 2025 LPC report noting four violations all connected to the same address at
- Community Board 9 will continue researching concerns about decay of historic structures at identified addresses.
- Update was shared from Robert Stern, Acting President of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee (MHHDC) on the status of the district and McGiffert Hall.
 - MHHDC continues to advocate for the expansion of the historic district and has submitted a Request for Evaluation, including one for McGiffert Hall. However, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) has not responded. MHHDC remains hopeful that a change in political leadership will revitalize LPC's mission and support the designation efforts. A similar request for the West Harlem Historic District remains pending.

NEW BUSINESS

- No motions were made.

ACTION ITEMS

- Submit vote electronically on resolution of support for St. Nicholas Park stair reconstruction contingent on preservation details.
- Ask the UST Committee if support is in place by local precincts for No Kings Day (Oct 18) protests and if helpful, find a useful platform to distribute KYR cards. Possibly share with CB9M co-chairs at Exec Committee meeting.
- Identify committee member(s) to volunteer to research and summarize concerns about decay of historic structures: 451 Convent Ave., 726 and 722 St. Nicholas Ave.
- Send LPP representative to 12/14 street renaming ceremony for the late historic preservation advocate, Laura Friedman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:30PM EST.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Hon. Veronica Savage.