

# CB9M Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Minutes and Updates

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

**Location:** Virtual Zoom Meeting, Called to Attention at 6:40pm

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

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

**Absent Committee Members:** Hon. Victoria Benitez, Hon. Kelsy Bettis, Hon. Michael Palma, Hon. Carolina Ramirez and Hon. Jonathan Thomas.

## New Business: NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks Updates & Announcements

- **St. Nicholas Park: 9/10/22 James Baldwin Lawn:** Movie Under the Stars: **Under the Subway Video Art Night** 7:30pm-10pm
- **Morningside Park: 9/17/22 Ballfield Manhattan Avenue and 112<sup>th</sup> Street:** Movie Under the Stars: **Westside Story** PG-13 (2021) 7:00pm
- **Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner** William Castro will be retiring as of 9/15/22. He is being replaced by **Anthony Perez**, the former Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker, New York City Council. **Perez begins his leadership position on 9/19/22.**
- **Riverside Park Conservancy W 59<sup>th</sup> to 181<sup>st</sup> Streets:** [summer-on-the-hudson-events-calendar\\_6247422eb54ba.pdf \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- New Staff at the Park, **Stephanie Caban** will provide future updates at CB9M meetings.
- New President and CEO **Merritt Birnbuam** has been appointed.
- **Jacob H. Schiff Playground** Amsterdam Ave. & W 136th Street, NY, NY 10031: Capital Project Update: Construction started in the past few months of **Seating Area**. Improvements include new drinking fountain, benches, security lights, drainage, concrete pavers, etc. Target project completion date is 2023.  
[Jacob Schiff Playground Sitting Area Reconstruction : NYC Parks \(nycgovparks.org\)](#)
- **Public Mural:** *Monte de Flores* (Montefiore Square in Hamilton Heights at Broadway and West 138th Street) was created in conjunction with Creative Art Works (CAW) Public Art Youth Employment program. Youth Apprentices (YAs) were part of the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The murals enhance community engagement and attract visitors using characters and imaging reflective of the Harlem Renaissance.  
[Press — Creative Art Works](#)

- **Morningside Park:** Capital Project Park Path Reconstruction along ball fields on the south side between West 110<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> Streets to begin after 9/26/22. Comfort stations will be closed during this time. There will be no access to the lower fields for 2-3 months. It will be determined in the next month if reconstruction on the north side between West 120<sup>th</sup> and 122<sup>nd</sup> will take place concurrently or in phases. North side upper paths will remain open.
- **Morningside Lights:** 9/24/22 Festival in the Park with events all day. Procession of lights starts at 8pm. Additional workshops 9/17/22 to 9/23/22. See [Morningside Lights - Illuminate the Night \(morningside-lights.com\)](https://morningside-lights.com) for details and to sign up for a Lantern Workshop.
- **Morningside Park House** at 112<sup>th</sup> Street is planning to host a new Crab cafe that will open in the early spring. This is also part of the reason for the lower park area closing.
- **Morningside Park:** Supply chain issues have caused the delay in determining whether two pumps will be repaired or replaced. Handrails at 113<sup>th</sup> Street Steps are being planned. Toxic Algae has been confirmed at the pond in this park and a study to determine the water components is in process. Avoid contact with the algae and protect your pets.
- **Morningside Park Faces of Harlem** Photo Exhibition 8/6/22- 11/30/22 on south end of the park. Commemorating Harlem and its beauty. See [About — FACES OF HARLEM](#)
- **Harlem Historic Parks: Street Tree Unit Improvements planned** including tree planting and pits.
- **St. Nicholas Park Plaza:** Sunday 9/18/22 **Pigeonwing Dance:** The Carpet Series 4pm-5pm.
- **St. Nicholas Park:** 10/9/22 City College Jazz Studies Program presents free Jazz Concert.
- **It's My Park Weekend:** Harlem Parks 10/15/22 – 10/16/22. More information TBD.
- **Riverside Park:** Bathrooms are still closed at the West 142<sup>nd</sup> Street location. The Park is waiting on Con Edison to restore the power to the area. This may entail digging a trench to reconnect the power. The bathrooms can't be re-opened without lights. This is a health and safety issue. It is imperative that Assembly members Taylor and Jackson be contacted to compel Con Edison to restore the power ASAP.

## **Presentations:**

### **142<sup>nd</sup> Street Dog Run- Proposal to Change Trash Receptacles, Shannon Richards**

- Fundraising initiative is required to replace existing receptacles that tend to overflow and are not appropriate for dog waste and the needs of the community.
- There are no other garbage cans on the east side of Riverside Drive between West 135<sup>th</sup> Street to West 145<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Currently an expensive Bigbelly (5 digits) and two other insufficient receptacles exist.
- Existing receptacles tend to overflow and cause a litter problem on the ground.
- It is suggested that the Bigbelly receptacle be moved to a different location in the Park.
- Parks has approved the proposed gray bin replacement receptacles, but not the funding.
- Each proposed replacement receptacle costs approximately \$900. A cost estimate was presented.
- The Dog Run advocates have offered to pay for one of the replacement receptacles and is requesting that CB9M assist with securing funding for one additional receptacle.
- Funding assistance is being sought from the NYS Assembly and NYC Council elected officials.
- It was suggested to request the addition of multiple receptacles throughout the District.
- NYC Department of Sanitation is responsible for garbage pick-up on NYC streets despite the close proximity to Denny Farrell River Bank State Park.

### **346 Convent Avenue New York, NY 10031, Jonathan Kirk, AIA DHD ARCHITECTURE PC**

Expand Basement Level Rear Yard, New Concrete Retaining Walls, New Fences, Rear Yard Excavation

- Single family Townhouse located between West 145<sup>th</sup> and 144<sup>th</sup> Streets. This property protrudes past the neighboring rear yard properties.
- This is an amendment to previously approved LPC and DOB filings which requires a new LPC Hearing due to the change in the rear yard planter area.
- Applicant is seeking to expand and renovate the existing patio space which requires excavation, but no change in the grade level.
- Draining requirements will be satisfied with proper connections to the storm underground plumbing.
- Applicant indicates that the neighboring property owners have been notified of the amended renovation plans to the rear yard by certified mail.
- The patio expansion and excavation does not encroach upon neighboring properties, but reconfigures the Landmarks Preservation (LPC) required 5 feet of planting space to the rear property line to 2 feet. Engineers have been consulted and underpinning is not required.
- The existing wood deck materials will be replaced with exterior grade porcelain pavers.

- The existing stone and masonry retaining wall will be moved and reconstructed with concrete and stucco materials to accommodate the request for 3 feet of additional usable patio space which will reduce the LPC required 5 feet of planting space from the aesthetic property zone to 2 feet.
- In ground planting, above ground planters and vines will be used to replenish the rear yard planting area or green space that is being reconfigured.
- Replacement chain link fencing that sits on existing stone and masonry walls will be similar to that of TimberTech or AZEK Vinyl which resembles wood, but is non-combustible.

**Old Business:**

**Proposed West Harlem Proposed State National Register Historic District - Yuien Chin, West Harlem Community Preservation Organization and Harlem One Stop**

- A State National Register Historic District is proposed for West Harlem 135<sup>th</sup> to 155<sup>th</sup> Streets between Riverside Drive and Amsterdam Avenue to preserve neighborhood character and provide access to resources including tax credits for property improvements.
- It is expected that West Harlem will have another Historic District by the end of the year.
- Waiting for the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to provide its final approval. The Board is scheduled to meet on 9/8/22.
- Documents will be sent to LPC for notification of the approved new Historic District.
- A Conference is being scheduled date TBD by City College during early November.

**Morningside Heights Historic District Committee (Phase II Initiative) - *Preserving the Next Phase of Historic Residential Districts*, Robert Stern**

- Morningside Heights Historic District designated 02/21/2017.
- 5 Mini non continuous extensions. Used the geography to name the proposed districts.
- Applicant prefers that all 5 Districts to receive LPC designation, but will consider a prioritization of the various Mini non continuous extensions.
- A Resolution is requested from CB9M.
- A draft Resolution/Letter of Support was presented and submitted by the applicant.
- These proposed districts connect well with West Harlem in style and architecture.
- The applicant is seeking community engagement, buy in and support
- The proposed districts connect well with West Harlem in style and architecture.
- It was suggested that a meeting be organized with LPC to provide focus on designating this Historic District and the West Harlem Historic District Projects in Community Board 9.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022**