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CB9M LANDMARKS PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Veronica Savage called the regular meeting of the CB9M Landmarks Preservation and Parks Committee to Order at 6:40 PM EST, on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom conferencing.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND IN-PERSON

Co-Chair Hon. Veronica Savage, Hon. Abraham Alexander, Hon. Marquis Bell, Hon. Andrea Brecker, Hon. Patricia Caldwell, Hon. Dejon Delpino, and Hon. Kristina Maria Lopez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED

Co-Chair, Heather Jason [Excused], Hon. Gregory Brito [Absent], Hon. Vanessa Caughman-Smith [Absent] and Hon. Tiago Kiel [Absent]

GUESTS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Matthew King II (Community Member)

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Chair Hon. Victor Edwards, 1st Vice Chair Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. April Adams and Public Member Ira Gersherhorn

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); Karen Asner, Friends of St. Nicholas Park; Tapashi Narine (Historic Harlem Parks Administrator, NYC Parks); Ashenique Rodriguez (NYC Parks); Matt Genrich (Regional Director, NYC Parks); Steve Simon, (Chief of Staff, NYC Parks); Nick Grefenstead and Michael Lamerrick (Capital Division, NYC Parks); Al Juba and Euntaek Joon (MKW & Associates)

QUORUM

A quorum was established with seven committee members present and in person.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

The September 3, 2025 agenda was adopted and June 2025 minutes were tabled to the next meeting due to delayed distribution of materials.

INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Co-Chair Veronica Savage welcomed members and emphasized collaboration across committees, highlighting priorities including parks access, community gardens, and preservation.
- New and continuing members introduced themselves. Each shared areas of interest such as historic preservation, youth opportunities, and community gardening.
- Members reflected on how this committee's work can connect with other CB9 committees to share resources and strengthen advocacy.

- North Stair Tower reopened; softball field renovation in progress and is on track for completion by spring; indoor pool closed for a few weeks for annual deep maintenance; amphitheater remains closed due to safety issues requiring major investment.
- All park programming transitions from summer to fall. Registration for fall classes are done in phases with seniors given priority then the general public. A question raised about online registration as an option and response was that seniors prefer in-person registration and this format allows the park to interface with the community more.
- Stevie Wonder sunset dance party held Sunday, 9/7, 4p-7p. Monthly Friends meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month. This month on 9/13, at 10:30-12, in rehearsal room B.
- **September events and programming were shared and can be viewed at [Riverbank State Park \(Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park\)](#)**
- Community Question: Why does the outdoor amphitheatre remain closed ?
- Response: Elevator and stair tower and its facade in need of complete renovation and interior needs serious repairs and installation of restrooms. Repair cost for stairs, elevator and facade alone is estimated to be a \$10 million project. The interior work does not have a recent estimate and the restroom has not been priced out. The park currently has higher priority projects and does not have the available funding. The project is included in state parks larger \$300 million capital plan and continues to leverage city, state and federal dollars to work through the capital projects.
- Invitation made to DFRSP to present at a future committee meeting on state park funding received and how it is being allocated.

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

- Over 200 youth participated in summer programming; fall classes begin September 23; high school internships resume in mid-October with \$100 honorarium, community service hours and 25 available slots.
- Letter of interest for internship can be sent to programs@thehort.org
- Seed Saving and Seed Keeping classes and Herbs for Mutual Aid classes being offered this season.
- <https://www.explorableplaces.com/places/the-horticultural-society-of-new-york>
- Additional free public programs listings can be viewed at www.thehort.org/events.
- Mallory to send fall programming postcard and class details to distribution list.

NYC Parks and Historic Harlem Parks: Tapashi Narine, tapashi.narine@parks.nyc.gov

- Introduced Ashenique Rodriguez as new Project Development Coordinator who will assist with volunteer coordination and special event permits. Ashenique was previously Executive Director of East River Esplanades.
- Announced Morningside Park Jazz (Sept 13, 5-6:30PM), Common Grounds Festival at Morningside (Sept 20, 12-6PM), St. Nicholas Park Tree Count (Sept 13, 10AM), and Hispanic Heritage Celebration (Sept 20, 3-6PM).
- Marcus Garvey Park, (Sept 5, 4-8PM) Senegalese Acrobatic Group and Poetic Consultation performing.
- Jackie Robinson, Sept 17, Charlie Parker Festival, 8:00PM-10:00PM
- All September Events and Programming [listed here](#)
- *Tapashi also shared that Kelli Jordan, from Riverside Park, and our liaison to West Harlem Piers, had taken a position with Central Park Conservancy. Her replacement has not been identified yet.

NYC Parks: Matt Genrich

- Matt announced by the end of September, early October the renovations at Alexander Hamilton basketball court should be complete and reopening. Asphalt work needs to cure for 30 days and then can put down sports coating and re-attach hoops.
- Safety surface replacement at Playground 125 completed in time for back to school.