

Waterfront-Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 6, 2012 at Broadway Housing 583 Riverside Drive 7th floor
Meeting called to order at approximately 6:50 pm

CB9 Members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (Co-Chair), Brad Taylor (Co-Chair),
Carole Singleton

CB9 Public member in attendance: Jen Silverman

Public attendees: Paul Evans-Riverside Park, Victoria Mason-Ailey-Columbia University

Presentations and discussions:

- 1) Frederick Douglas Circle Skateboard Meeting- Discussion regarding skateboarders frequenting the Circle and using it as a skate park while doing great damage to the surfaces of the memorial. Among topics covered were complaints from area residents regarding noise and safety concerns, the use of social media to inform skateboarders not to use the Circle and the deployment of PEP officers and NYPD to enforce the skateboard ban. Other sites being utilized illegally by skateboarders were also covered as well as legal skateboard sites like Chelsea Piers and potential sites in Riverside Park. Follow-up meetings are scheduled.
- 2) Next was a discussion regarding an upcoming meeting covering the topic of barbecuing in Morningside Park. Among topics covered the posting of signs indicating which areas are allowed for barbecue as well as the use of less toxic materials to start the barbecues. Carole Singleton asked if the discussion could be expanded to include St. Nicholas Park along Edgecombe Avenue. Discussion followed on what parts of St. Nicholas Park are in CB9 and CB10.
- 3) Paul Evans gave a brief update on summer activities in the parks including walk-athons being conducted in Riverside Park and Brad Taylor gave an update regarding the father's basketball tournament and the Sunday Sermons concert series.
- 4) Brad Taylor gave an update on the District Needs Statement and Budget Priorities for FY 2014 and the need for a skate park as a priority. Paul Evans mentioned the budget cuts regarding staffing and the impact upon the maintenance of the parks. Carole Singleton said there was a strong need for the trash collected in St. Nicholas Park to be hauled away after it is bagged. Carole Singleton also mentioned the need for stairs to be rebuilt in St. Nicholas Park and the need to include the repairs as part of the budget requests.
- 5) Lengthy discussion followed regarding access to Riverside Drive through Riverbank State Park from the bicycle path along the river. Issue raised by Jen Silverman who uses bike path along the river but indicated the rear gate of Riverbank State Park is now locked preventing easy access to the park and Riverside Drive by people using the riverfront.
- 6) Transplanting of shrubs from Grant's Tomb to other locations including library on 125th Street also discussed briefly. Paul Evans indicated transfer would not be done until fall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm
Submitted by Arnold Boatner