

**MINUTES OF THE CB#9 PARKS AND LANDMARKS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004**

**PRESENT:** Co-Chairs George Goodwill and Carolyn Kent, Committee members Gladys Tinsley, Patricia Jones, Maria Berman, Nicholas Bunning; Dale Dobson, Public Member; Excused, Sophie Johnson, Walter South, Joshua Weinman, Chantay Taylor; absent, John Reddick; other Board members present, Savona Bailey McClain, W. Frances Mack:

**Also present:** Douglas Nash, Olmsted Center, DPR; Barbara Guster, JHS #195; Kisasi Brooks, Friends of Morningside Park, Geoffrey Nulle, Riverside Park Bird Sanctuary, Joseph Avery, Superintendent of Manhattan Sites, National Park Service, K C Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park.

**Announcements:** **Members of the Bridge: Stage of the Arts** will meet with April Parks/Landmarks meeting to ask support for their restoration of the Hamilton Theater. Please review hand-out before the meeting.

**Columbia is doing an engineering survey** toward stabilization of the Croton Gatehouse on Amsterdam Avenue at 119<sup>th</sup> St.

**Design for the replacement stairs at 120<sup>th</sup> St. in Morningside Park** – Presentation postponed due to lack of illustrative boards.

**Introductory discussion of ULURP granting a permanent easement** of two Riverside Park sites to the National Park Service for extension of the plaza area and location of a visitors' center in the viewing pavilion lying to the west of Grant's Tomb. Superintendent Joseph Avery brought copies of the May 16, 1996 CB#9 Reso of support for acquisition of the pavilion. Public Hearing in April.

**KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park, led a discussion** of inclusive community participation in utilization of a planning grant for study of improvements in the landfill area north of Riverbank State Park: he reported that the West Harlem Art Fund under the call "Take me to the River" had worked with the Borough President's Office to apply for a grant from the NY Secretary of State to fund a study of access and possible further amenities for the riverfront area now "combining limited access and limitless resources." He proposed a community meeting to be co-hosted by C. Va. Fields, Councilman Robert Jackson, and CB#9 of all stakeholders in the park – adjacent residents,

ballfield permit holders, Assemblyman Denny Farrell, Riverside Park Fund, all park users, vendors, NRCERB, et al to discuss what would go into the RFP for specific studies of the area. These groups would then be reconvened to discuss the outcome of the Planning Studies.

Savona Bailey McClain, Director of the West Harlem Art Fund, suggested that the goals for use of planning funds should be to explore such amenities as a finger-slip marina, a skate park, improving the baseball fields.

KC Sahl accepted Ms. McClain's suggestion that the Borough President's office prepare a draft RFP to present to the stakeholders convened in such a meeting. He reported a Harlem Little League proposal "in the works" for ballfield improvement. The US Soccer Foundation is exploring support. Riverside Park Fund is working with NY Cares and major league baseball sources to redo fields with new grass and clay infields. Assemblyman Farrell's office is working with NYS DOT to replace the old pedestrian Amtrack bridge crossing at 151<sup>st</sup> St. He suggested that we ask NYS DOT to come and report to CB#9.

Finally, Mr. Sahl indicated that Riverbank State Park was eager for more parking at the 145<sup>th</sup> river level entrance to serve the café under development. The idea is to share parking use between Riverbank State Park and Riverside Park North – the landfill area. He has moved DEP's position forward from earlier reluctance to allow public use of more than a small area behind the Sewage Treatment Plant and DEP now has given a go-ahead for expanded parking usage. A CB#9 Reso?

**Discussion of Chair Jordi Reyes-Montblanc's request** that each Committee name one primary project to be fully completed in 2004: Carolyn Kent pushed against some opposition for a broader agenda list and urged that the Committee name three goals: 1) Work with LPC toward better enforcement and more sensitive collaboration in support of our landmarks and historic districts, 2) specific landmark designations for Covent Garden Apts., Cathedral of St. John the Divine entire Close, Riverside Drive Viaduct, Morningside Heights H.D., 3) specific parks goals – restoration of staircase at St. Clair Place, complete RSD Promenade restoration, establish parking areas under viaduct north of 145<sup>th</sup> St., expand Broadway Malls restoration to 155<sup>th</sup> St. as called for by the full Board.

It was suggested by Board member Frances Mack that this list be faxed to all Committee members for further discussion and it was agreed this would be done.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM until April 12, 2004.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Kent*