

## CB9M Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2010

**Location:** CB9M Offices, 18 Old Broadway

**Chair:** Brad W. Taylor (present)

**Committee Members:** Miriam Aristy-Farer (excused), Savona Bailey McClain (present), Martha Norrick (absent), Carole Singleton (present)

**Public Members:** Laquita Henry (present)

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to attention by the chair at 6:35pm and called to order at 6:52pm with a quorum present.
2. **Adopt Agenda:** The agenda was adopted unanimously on a motion by C. Singleton seconded by S. McClain.
3. **Adopt Minutes:** Minutes of the March, 2010 meeting will be drafted by B.Taylor
4. **Presentations and Reports:**
  1. *Upcoming Temporary Sculpture by Manolo Valdes in the Broadway Malls.* - Broadway Malls Association and Marlborough Gallery.  
Two sites within CB9 have been selected at 137<sup>th</sup> Street in the triangle just to the south of Montefiore Park and facing north in the median mall at 147<sup>th</sup> Street. The pieces will be installed in May, 2010 and be in place through January 2011. The committee reviewed the locations and the presentation and NYCDPR - the agency would like to get on the Committee's April agenda to present plans for the pedestrian ramp at the Grant's Tomb Pavillion.
  2. *NYCDPR* - the agency reported on their ongoing projects and efforts in Riverside Park
5. **Discussion:**
  1. *Lack of Visibility on Cherry Walk in Riverside Park.* Two guests gave written and oral testimony as to the poor lighting conditions on the stretch of the riverside bike path from 110<sup>th</sup> Street to St. Clair Place. NYCDPR noted that upgrades would be costly.
  2. *DOT Plaza Program* - possible locations in CB9 were considered. Two possible locations were discussed briefly - where Hancock place diverges from 125<sup>th</sup> Street just west of Morningside Ave. and Morningside Ave. Between 113<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> Streets. Committee members were unanimous in their support of the former location.
6. **Action Item(s):**
  1. **Riverbank State Park.** There was unanimous agreement that the chair should draft a resolution objecting to the proposed cuts to Riverbank in the Governor's proposed budget.
  2. **Cherry Walk.** There was unanimous agreement among the committee members that the chair should draft a letter outline the hazardous conditions and asking that NYCDPR address them.
  3. **Manolo Valdes Sculptures.** The committee voted unanimously that the chair should draft a letter of support which makes note of the fact the CB9 encourages sponsors of temporary art in our district to include programs that engage our youth and citizens to educate them about the art being displayed and the artist(s) who created it.
7. **Old Business:** none
8. **New Business:** Committee Goals and Accomplishments. The Chair will draft these up as part of the CB9 budget request process.
9. **Adjourn:** There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Brad Taylor

To ensure the community's needs are clearly understood and honored, it was suggested that a letter or resolution be jointly written by the Land Use, Economic Development, and Art & Culture committees which would then be approved by the Executive Committee and full board and signed by board and committee chairs. This letter/resolution should specify succinctly but firmly and clearly what the community would like to see happen in this area (vertical mixed use). This needs to happen in the next two weeks.

The current Dept of City Planning proposal makes it difficult for non-profits to successfully navigate the ULURP complex process.

**Tom Lunke – Director of Planning, Harlem Community Development Corporation**

Met with Pat Jones (CB9 Board Chair) and Yvonne Stennett (CB9 Land Use Committee Co-chair) for a review of the 197A Plan with the goal of drafting a zoning resolution that proposes a modified approach that best addresses what the 197A was trying to accomplish for CB9.

Fully understanding that City Planning is less inclined to allow for a special district, an attempt is being made to strike a balance with "off the shelf" zoning where the community could pick and chose those specific components that would represent and be in line with the community's desires and include stipulations that would place emphasis on commercial and industrial uses and allow for a residential component which would be in effect for the entire district.

It was recommended that a letter be drafted to City Planning indicating that CB9 has listened to the developer and that the 197a plan is still very much a relevant document that expresses the voice of the community, and that community is very clear on what it wants for the entire district.

The zoning that was recommended was the M1-5R/7 with an inclusionary housing designation.

Need to look at the full district not just Janus. Lower the FAR for residential and community facility allows everyone to get a little more, but not a lot more.

Rezoning of 125<sup>th</sup> yielded a bonus for arts spaces to be developed in new buildings in CB10' (did not include CB9 or CB11)

HCDC issued RFP for Mart 125. ImageNation will develop a state of the art green live stage and cinema theater and the National Jazz Museum of Harlem will develop and occupy space on the site. The site is slated to include housing.

HCDC is providing ImageNaton with a matching grant to do pre-development. This project is in keeping with the 125<sup>th</sup> street rezoning. Lowered height limits (as tall as the Theresa Hotel)

The Columbia University expansion was originally conceived as a mixed-use district but ultimately did not make it in the final decision. Multiple owners provides for a richer environment than with only one entity.

**Questions/Concerns:**

What is City Planning's rationale for not rezoning the district as a special district?

There is no proviso in the zoning code that has anti-harrassment language, this language is now gone

How does the community avoid being pushed out and protected against over development?

Suggestion: Hold a forum before City Planning finalizes their document asking them present their plans, open the forum up for discussion inviting as many people as possible to air issues and concerns. This approach ensures that City Planning 'hears' from the community.

**Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting April 5 @ Broadway Housing**