



Hon. Marquis A. Harrison  
Chairperson

# CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10027  
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215  
Website: <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb10/>

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 6:30 PM**  
**Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin, Chairperson**  
**Hon. Bailey Jeremie, Vice Chairperson**  
**Hon. Lourdes Smart, Secretary**

### **Parks & Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes** **January 14, 2025 @ 6:30 pm In-Person/(via Zoom)**

#### **In-Person Attendance:**

Board Member Bailey Jeremie, Board Member Ernest Clayton (NEW), Board Member Derek Perkinson, Board Member William Council (NEW), Board Member Doria Josma, and Board Member Lourdes Smart

#### **Excused:**

Board Member Dr. Maurice Franklin  
Board Member Carla Small-Covington (NEW)

#### **Absent:**

Board Member Kamaria Milford  
Board Member Ulafayette Crump-Adams (NEW)

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

##### **A. Motion to Call the Meeting to Order**

- ❖ Board Member Jeremie Vice-Chair of the committee, called for a motion to start the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Board Member Perkinson motioned to call the meeting to order and Board Member Josma seconded the motion.

##### **B. Introduction of Committee Members**

- ❖ The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting began with introductions from committee members, including Board Member Bailey Jeremie, Board Member Doria Josma, Board Member Derek Perkinson, Board Member Ernest Clayton, Board Member William Council, and Board Member Lourdes Smart. Each member shared their affiliations, with several holding multiple committee roles.



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## C. Introduction of Board Members

- ❖ Committee welcomed Board Members Karen Dixon and Board Member Catrice Davis

## D. Introduction of Invited Guests

- ❖ Committee welcomed the 137<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, representatives from the Harlem Honeys and Bears synchronized swim team.

## II. ELECTED OFFICIALS/AGENCIES

- ❖ There were no elected officials/agencies present at this meeting.

## III. PRESENTATIONS

### A. NYC Parks - **Steve Simon**, Chief of Staff, Manhattan Parks –

- ❖ Was not present at this month's meeting.

### B. CB10 Parks Updates - **Matt Genrich**, NYC Parks Manager/Districts 10 & 11 Regional Manager, Jonathan **Kovacs**, and **Lexie**

- ❖ Recreation Updates and Volunteer Opportunities. Matt shared information about an upcoming Recreation Division open house week from February 15th to February 21st, where residents can use Manhattan's 11 rec centers for free. He also announced a stargazing event in Morningside Park on January 30th and mentioned seasonal job opportunities. Leroy, representing the Huntington Bears, expressed concerns about their practice slots and requested support from the board. Matt offered to forward their correspondence to the Borough Commissioner and Chief of Recreation. Lexi, from Partnerships for Parks, introduced herself and discussed volunteer opportunities in parks, including plantings and other activities.

### C. NYC Parks Manager Districts 10 & 11 - Parks Update - **Tapashi Narine**, Regional Director

### D. Greenthumb program, Community Gardens - **Ashley Kuenneke**, Community Engagement Coordinator for Harlem

- ❖ Ashley presented on the Green Thumb program, highlighting its role in supporting community gardens across Manhattan and outlining upcoming events and initiatives. The group discussed tree stewardship events and the reactivation of the Harlem Valley Garden. Board Member Jeremi inquired about the location and listing of community gardens in CB10, which Ashley agreed to provide. The conversation ended with a reminder about accessing event information through the CB10 newsletter and NYC Parks website.



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### E. HCCI Presentation on CBA's and Public Spaces. **Dr. Malcom Punter CEO**

#### ❖ **HCCI's Community Space Development:**

Malcolm Punter, president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI), presented the organization's history and involvement in community space development in Harlem. He highlighted HCCI's role in transforming areas like Bradhurst, Jackie Robinson Park, and the Robert Quinscale Park, collaborating with various stakeholders and city officials. Punter also discussed the challenges and responsibilities associated with managing open spaces, such as the one at 148th Street, and the need for improvements, including year-round usability and programming. He emphasized HCCI's commitment to community engagement and its ongoing efforts to balance housing development with maintaining open spaces for public use.

#### ❖ **Community Space Maintenance Challenges:**

Malcolm discussed the maintenance and programming of a community space in Manhattan, explaining that while they have 3 maintenance staff and 2 supervisors, there have been issues with vandalism and dog feces. Board Member Perkinson asked if there are fees associated with events held at this facility Malcolm clarified that HCCI does not charge fees for events but requires a \$250 security deposit for cleanup, and explained that they cannot transfer ownership to Green Thumb due to previous agreements and potential conflicts.

#### ❖ **Community Park Maintenance Strategy:**

The meeting focused on addressing maintenance and safety issues at a community park, with Malcolm emphasizing the need for cooperation and responsible behavior from park users. Nuri explained HCCI's efforts in maintaining the park, including daily inspections, leaf removal, and the installation of new garbage containers, but acknowledged ongoing challenges such as vandalism and misaligned community expectations. The committee discussed past meetings with tenant associations and the need for continued collaboration, with Malcolm offering to organize further walkthroughs and programming efforts. Board Member Jeremie proposed bringing the issue back to a future meeting for further strategizing and establishing quarterly communication between all parties involved.

### F. 137th Neighborhood Association - Hon. **Jackie K. Weatherspoon**

- ❖ 137<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Assoc. had another engagement and requested to be added to February's agenda.



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G. Central Park Conservancy, 200th anniversary of Seneca Village's Founding, -  
**Hon. Shatic Mitchell**

❖ **Seneca Village and Community Events:**

The meeting covered several topics, including the Seneca Village project, community events, and park programming. Jessica and her team talk about the 200th anniversary of Seneca Village, highlighting its history and ongoing efforts to commemorate it. The committee discussed potential ideas for commemorating Seneca Village, including site markers, augmented reality, and temporary sculptures. Board Member Perkinson recommended adding more information in the park's Memorial Garden, a display of Black artists should be featured, reach out to schools and invite them to the Education Committee, display artwork in the park. Board Member Jeremie recommended the display of sculptures. Board Member Josma recommended having educational tours and getting teachers involve. John invited the committee to visit Seneca Village.

H. Spring Summer Activation - **Hon. Doria Josma, Chair Summer Activation**

- ❖ There was a brief discussion about the summer activation event. Board Member Josma shared updates on the upcoming Father's Day activation event at Brigadier Charles Young Park, to take place on the weekend before or the weekend after Father's Day. Board Member Josma is seeking volunteers and collaboration for this event.

#### IV. VOTING ITEMS

A. **Letter of Support for Brigadier Charles Young Park**

- ❖ Voting was postponed and will be added to February's agenda.

#### V. DISCUSSIONS

A. Brig. Gen. Charles Young Park on Tuesday, April 1, 2026

- ❖ No additional discussion

B. Harlem River Park

- ❖ No additional discussion

C. Spring Activation

- ❖ Discussion is ongoing

D. Harlem Honey and Bears

- ❖ The organization's requested additional time to complete construction at the Harlem Honey and Bears Center. Board Member Jeremie recommended a Letter of Support, additional time, and a walkthrough.



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## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. 2026 Calendar

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS 2026 CALENDAR**

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Board Member Jeremie call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Clayton moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Member Perkinson seconded the motion with a of 6-0 vote.
- B. Board Member Jeremie adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.