



Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson
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CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 11th, 2025 – 6:30pm

Chair, Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin

Vice Chair, Hon Bailey Jeremie

Secretary, Hon. Lourdes Smart

Parks & Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes June 11, 2025 @ 6:32 pm In-Person/(via Zoom)

In Attendance:

Board Member Dr. Maurice Franklin, Board Member Bailey Jeremie, Board Member Ernest Clayton (NEW), Board Member Ulafayette Crump-Adams (NEW), Board Member Dorisa Josma, Board Member Derek Perkinson and Board Member Lourdes Smart

Hybrid: Board Carla Small-Covington (NEW)

Absent:

Board Member William Council (NEW)
Board Member Kamaria Milford

I. Welcome, Chair and Introduction

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin, Chair of the committee, welcomes everyone to the meeting.

II. Motion to Call the Meeting to Order

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin, Chair of the committee, motion to call meeting to order at 6:32pm. Board Member Jeremie seconded the motion.

III. Introduction of Members

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin called for Introduction of CB 10 Parks Committee Members. Board Member Dr. Franklin introduced new members. Each member introduced themselves. Board Member Jeremie conducted the roll call.

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin called for the Introduction of CB 10 Board Members. Board Member Nelson – Vice Chair of the Landmark and Transportation was introduced to the committee members.
- ❖ Introduction of Invited Guests: - No invited guest attended this meeting.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin called for the adoption of May 2025 minutes. Board Member Jeremie motioned to adopt the May 2025 minutes, Board Member Perkinson second the motion.

V. Elected Officials/Agencies

- ❖ No elected officials attended this meeting.

VI. Presentations

- a. **NYC Parks Manager/ Districts 10 & 11 Regional Director CB 10 Parks Update, Tapashi Narine** – Announced Matt Genrich was unable to attend this month's meeting due to a scheduled vacation. Tapashi provided an update of previous events for the past weekend there was low turnout due to the rain. She provided updates on the following events:
 - i. Jazz season at Jackie Robinson
 - ii. Juneteenth celebration at Morningside Park
 - iii. A celebration of James Balwin's birthday on August 2nd at St. Nicholas Park where Cynthia Erivo will be appearing.
 - iv. Juneteenth celebration at Marcus Garvey Park

Board Member Dr. Franklin requested a list of all events that will be taking place with the district. Board Member Dr. Franklin commented there was a walkthrough in Jackie Robinson Park which is investing \$75,000 in a dog walking park. There was a walkthrough at Rucker with the Commissioner.

- b. **CB(10) District Need Survey - Hon. Vice Chair Bailey Jeremie** - Board Member Dr. Franklin introduced the topic of the survey field testing and preparing to have it distributed to the entire board at large. Board Member Dr. Franklin introduced Board Member Jeremie to speak about the survey, water accessibility information throughout Harlem. Board Member Jeremie shared slides with the committee which includes the following information such as:
 - i. What are our community needs?
 - ii. Familiarity with our community parks, how people feel about the parks around Harlem.
 - iii. How familiar are we with the (1) Budget for our community parks (2) District needs (3) Restoration around Harlem
 - iv. General questions, how important is water accessibility?

Board Member Dr. Franklin asked for questions. Board Member Nelson asked a question about the puddles when it rains near the children's playground in Jackie Robinson Park. It has been occurring for quite some time. Board Member Nelson will work with Steve Simon to resolve the issue. Board Member Nelson also inquired about the trash bins and when will they be upgraded.

- c. **District Strategic Needs Plan, Hon. Chair, Dr. Maurice Franklin** commented we need to observe and take notes when visiting the parks within and outside our districts. We should review our District Needs that may need revision. Board Member Josma asked if there are guidelines available when looking for observations. Board Member Jeremie explained what we should look for in our observations.

Board Member Nelson gave examples of what to look for such as:

- i. Rubber mats that are damaged
- ii. Broken swings
- iii. lighting (see what is missing)
- iv. look to see what is thrown around in the park (safety).

Dr. Franklin asked Steve Simon if he had any questions, Steve did not have any questions, however he requested a copy the survey. Board Member Dr. Franklin called on Corey for any additional thoughts however there was no response. Board Member Dr. Franklin provided an overview of his observations of the District Need Assessment, primary responsibilities, how informed we are about our parks; a subcommittee will be created out of our main committee to spearhead this initiative, this is a tool that can be used to highlight the resources needed for our parks Board Member Dr. Franklin explained the template was a working document that will be extended through October – September and will be moved around the community for data collection.

Board Member Dr. Franklin highlighted the following topics on the template:

- i. Capital and Infrastructure Investments
- ii. Public Health Equity Through Parks
- iii. Youth Engagement & Workforce Development
- iv. Interagency Coordination & Accountability
- v. Cultural Preservation & Civic Pride
- vi. Long-term Maintenance and Sustainability
- vii. Call to Action

Board Member Nelson commented that not only parks need planters, but we should also consider malls do as well. Some of those planters can be given to the community by the businesses within our community. Board Member Dr. Franklin commented, Community Board 10 is the hottest area due to lack of green space/open spaces which is environmentally better. These are policies and funding we want to pursue.

Board Member Dr. Franklin took a pause to ask the committee for questions, Board Member Jeremie asked Board Member Nelson for additional clarification regarding planters/flowers. Board Member Nelson explained there are green thumb volunteers to assist with replanting for the season, the city provides blubs to the various community gardens, Signage should be put up around February/March asking not to destroy the planters; the Department of Transportation does seasonal street scaping. Board Member Nelson recommend that we reach out Steve Simon and Lye Blackwood for additional information. Tapashi mentioned the parks have a maintenance crew at Jackie Robinson Park however they need gardeners; in addition, Tapashi mentioned historically, it has been cheaper to buy seeds to plant than to buy planters. Tapashi informed committee that there is a hoop house at Marcus Garvey Park where they grow plants which will be distributed to the four historical parks in Harlem, if there are extras, they will certainly distribute to other parks.

Board Member Nelson asked if there a list available (i.e., QR Code, Kiosk) of events in the parks? Tapashi responded that QR Codes have privacy issues and Kiosks are too costly; for Jackie Robinson Park they will be providing a bulletin board; They will however provide a space for the community to provide their flyers announcing events.

Steve Simon responded to Board Member Dr. Franklin District Need Plan presentation regarding funding/resources for the parks located in district ten, Steve read of a list of parks that are currently receiving funding, Board Member Dr. Franklin recommended that they both talk offline.

- d. Collaboration with Community Board 9 and 10 - Board Member Dr. Franklin –** discussed the structure of Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem River Park, St. Nicholas Park, Morningside Heights Park, Board Member Dr. Franklin spoke with the Deputy Manhattan Borough President in reference to the outline structure of the parks in Community Board 10, there is need for a collaborative effort with the other community boards, Manhattan Parks Commissioner and the Mayor. Board Member Dr. Franklin A recommended sending a communication to all parties describing our observations to ensure we are on record as a committee. Board Member Dr. Franklin presented a slide indicating parks that sit in other districts. Board Member Nelson asked if portions of the park carved out from district ten was funding reallocated as well.

VII. Voting Items

- ❖ CB 10 District Need Survey – Board Member Jeremie - motioned to support CB 10 District Need Survey, Board Member Perkinson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- ❖ Letter of Support of Collaboration with Community Board 9 and 11 coping Manhattan Borough President, Commissioner of Parks, Manhattan Parks Commissioner, and appropriate City Council representatives for districts 9,10 and 11. Board Member Jeremie - motioned to support Board Member Josma seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Board Member Dr. Franklin mentioned he will have those Letters of Support (LOS) for the June 25th meeting.

VIII. Discussions

- ❖ CB 10 Parks and Recreation Chair Maurice Franklin meetings with:
 - i. **Manhattan NYC Parks Commissioner – Tricia Shimauro** – No additional discussion is needed about Memorial Day weekend this was discussed already.
 - ii. **District Attorney's (DANY) Office -Estelle Strykers-Santiago/Courtney Bennett** - Board Member Dr. Franklin gave an update regarding Brigadier Charles Young Park, which is waiting for approval, there is still a lighting issue. Steve Simon confirmed the contractors have not broken ground. Board Member Dr. Franklin estimate new date for opening August 2025. Process for approving permits, non-permit hours conversations are ongoing. Want to ensure that the Harlem community has a fair shot of having access to the park. No decision has been made.
 - iii. **Albena Smith (Community Board 10 Resident)** – raised concern about no lighting in the park and the park continues to be dark. Board Member Dr. Franklin is concerned that the situation has not changed after sending a letter from the committee. Albena raised public safety concerns on the Malcolm X side of the park, community dumping, Amazon packages are brought to the park and left there. Steve Simon stated this should not be happening. Cory responded there were not enough trucks available and therefore they were experiencing over dumping of garbage in the parks. The full fleet of trucks are up and running so they should be back on schedule. Albena stated there are large black bags in the front area of the park and she intends to address the matter at Health and Human Services. Board Member Dr. Franklin will email the Department of Transportation and Health and Human Services.

IX. New Business

- ❖ NONE

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- ❖ Board Member Nelson – commented on placing a spigot in Jackie Roberson Park for the animals to drink water. There have been plumbing problems for the past two years which causes owners and their dog to walk a ten-block stretch to access drinking water. Steve Simon responded the spigots are not meant for public use. Steve and Tapashi will meet with Board Member Nelson to identify the problem areas in the park.

XI. Announcements

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin asked for announcements - Board Member Jeremie asked when can we expect William McCray Playground to be completed, Steve Simon announced towards the end of September. Board Member

Jeremie informed the committee and Manhattan Parks Chief Staff Steve Simon that St. Marks School will be closing this upcoming school year.

- ❖ Board Member Jeremie asked about the completion date for HansBorough, Steve responded spring of next year. Board Member Dr. Franklin commented he will get a list from Steve of all the outstanding parks projects and their projected completion dates.
- ❖ Board Member Jeremie recalled that Tapashi mentioned NYC pools will be opening on June 26, 2025. Davis Center will be converting its turf and will be getting ready for the pool season. Steven Simon confirmed the pool opening date however, he mentioned an event that will be taking place on June 26th at the new Central Park pool to celebrate the open of the new pool. There will press coverage and officials there, Steve will like the kids from Harlem to be represented at this event.

XII. Adjournment

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Jeremie Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Member Derek Perkinson seconded the motion with a 7-0 vote.
- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.