



Hon. Marquis A. Harris
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, October 8th, 2025 – 6:30, p.m.

Chair, Hon. Dr. Maurice Franklin

Vice Chair, Hon. Bailey Jeremie

Secretary, Hon. Lourdes Smart

**Parks & Recreation Committee - Meeting Minutes
October 08, 2025 @ 6:30 pm In-Person/(via Zoom)**

In Attendance:

Board Member Dr. Maurice Franklin, Board Member Bailey Jeremie, Board Member Ernest Clayton (**NEW**), Board Member Dorisa Josma, Board Member Derek Perkinson, Board Member Carla Small-Covington (**NEW**), and Board Member Lourdes Smart

Absent:

Board Member William Council (**NEW**)
Board Member Ulafayette Crump-Adams (**NEW**)
Board Member Kamaria Milford

I. Welcome, Chair and Introduction

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin, Chair of the Committee, welcomed all guests to the meeting.

II. Motion to Call the Meeting to Order

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin, Chair of the committee, motioned to call the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Board Member Jeremie seconded the motion.
- ❖ Board Member Jeremie conducted the roll call of the committee members.

III. Introduction of Members

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin called for the introduction of CB 10 Board Members: No Board Members attended this meeting.
- ❖ Introduction of Invited Guests: - No invited guest attended this meeting.
- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin thanked the Committee Members for their commitment in attending the meetings since he became Chair of the committee.

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin thanked Committee Members for their diligence participation and research on the documents that were sent out.
- ❖ Board Member Derek Parkinson was thanked for his advocacy during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

III. Adoption of Minutes

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin called for the adoption of September 2025 minutes. Board Member Jeremie motioned to adopt the September 2025 minutes, Board Member Parkinson second the motion.
- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin motioned for a roll call of officers, Board Member Jeremie conducted a roll call of the committee members. There were seven members present and three member absent.

IV. Elected Officials/Agencies

- ❖ Stacey from Assemblyman Al Taylor's office introduced herself.
- ❖ The Committee acknowledged Wilma Brown (Chief of Staff) from the council member Yuseff Salaam's office.

V. Presentations

- a. **Dr, Sheldon Applewhite, PhD, Chair of the Harlem Pickleball Association -**
Dr. Sheldon Applewhite presented a slideshow presentation to the Parks and Recreation Committee ("the Committee") regarding the Harlem Pickleball Association's efforts to improve Jackie Robinson Park, highlighting issues with bathroom conditions, lighting, and equipment storage. He noted that Central Harlem has limited park space and high heat vulnerability, while the park serves as a vital community resource for all ages. Board Member Franklin agreed to include these concerns in the Committee's upcoming district needs statement and proposed a collaborative pickleball activation event in the spring, with Sheldon offering to serve as a liaison between the HPA and the park.

Next steps:

- (i) Dr. Applewhite to send schedule and additional information about pickleball activities to the Committee.
- (ii) Committee to share Harlem Pickleball Association information on their community list service.
- (iii) Committee to reach out to Dr. Applewhite about collaborative activities with other Harlem parks.

- b. **Steve Simon, NYC Manhattan Parks Chief of Staff – Update on CB 10 Parks Restoration, Maintenance and Strategic Development Plan** – Board Member Franklin motioned to remove item number “c” into item “b”, moving the Chief of staff, Steve Simon, as the next presenter. Motion was moved and second. Motion was accepted.

District Parks Capital Projects Update:

The meeting focused on updates to parks and recreational facilities in the district. Steve Simon, the Chief of Staff, presented a list of active capital projects, highlighting completed renovations at several playgrounds and parks, including new bathrooms and reconstructed facilities. He also discussed ongoing projects, such as the reconstruction of ball fields at Jagger Robinson Park and HVAC system installations at the Jagger Robinson Recreation Center. Additionally, he mentioned the completion of the Renaissance Playground reconstruction and the ongoing design work for A. Philip Randolph Square, which is expected to begin construction in 2027. The conversation ended with an update on the Hansboro Recreation Center reconstruction, which is projected to be completed in March 2026.

Community Board 10 Park Renovations:

Steve provided an overview of various park projects in the Community Board 10 area, totaling approximately \$149 million in city capital funds. He discussed ongoing and planned renovations at multiple playgrounds, including Brigadier General Charles Young Playground, St. Nicholas Playground South, Holcomb Rucker, and Renaissance Playground. Steve also mentioned a new public restroom building being constructed at Holcomb Rucker and the completion of the Percy Sutton Playground, which is expected to finish by the end of the year.

Harlem Park Funding Overview:

The meeting focused on discussing park funding and projects in Harlem. Steve presented information on \$149 million in park funding, noting that \$70 million would go to Harrisboro Park. Bailey mentioned a \$75,000 project for a dog walk at Jackie Robinson Park, which was pending funding. The committee discussed the need for a comprehensive overview of park projects, including population data, project allocations, and time since last approval. Steve explained that while a Capital Project Tracker exists on their website, it doesn't provide exact funding amounts to avoid influencing contractor bids. Tapashi suggested using the Vital Parks initiative on the Parks Department website for community-specific park comparisons and advocacy.

Next Steps:

- (i) Steve Simon to provide updated timeline for HVAC system reconstruction at Jackie Robinson Rec Center.
- (ii) Steve Simon to schedule ribbon-cutting ceremony for William McCrae Playground.
- (iii) Steve Simon to provide update on Brigadier General Charles Young Playground sports lighting installation.
- (iv) Steve Simon to provide update on Percy Sutton Playground completion timeline.
- (v) Board Member recommended including dog walk project at Jackie Robinson Park in future funding requests.
- (vi) Steve Simon to provide updated timeline for Renaissance Playground reconstruction
- (vii) Steve Simon to provide update on St. Nicholas Playground South restroom renovation design
- (viii) Steve to follow up on tree hazard report at 114 West 131st Street

- c. **Districts 10 and 11 Update Regional Director Parks Update, Matt Genrich –** Matt Genrich did not attend the meeting, Cory Shaw was present on Matt's behalf.

Harlem Parks Renovation Updates:

Stacey and Steve discussed the transformation of parks in Harlem, including William McCrae Park, which was recently renovated. Steve explained that new bathrooms would be built at Rucker Park, replacing the old ones. They also discussed the basketball courts at Percy Sutton Playground, which are now regulation size but had to be shortened to accommodate a greenway extension. Stacey inquired about the maintenance plans for parks in the area, and Cory confirmed that parks are cleaned daily, with some receiving multiple cleanings per day. Manhattan mentioned that they would follow up with the Commissioner regarding maintenance schedules for the parks.

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

Harlem Park Maintenance Updates:

Tapashi provided updates on park maintenance frequencies and upcoming events in Harlem parks. She explained that level A playgrounds and highly frequented areas are maintained 5 times a week, larger park zones 3 times a week, and smaller areas once a week. Tapashi also addressed concerns about bathroom maintenance at Jackie Robinson Park and lighting issues, noting that DOT maintains park lighting. Cory, the district park manager, encouraged community members to report safety hazards like needles by contacting him directly or

submitting a 311 request. The conversation ended with a resident raising concerns about a hazardous tree at 131st Street, which the community board agreed to investigate further.

Next Steps:

Tapashi to provide aggregated monthly 311 request data for Central Harlem parks at next meeting.

Cory to forward maintenance schedule information to Manhattan once received from Commissioner.

VI. Voting Items

- ❖ No voting items

VII. Discussions/Updates

- ❖ **District Strategic Needs Plan, Hon. Chair, Dr. Maurice Franklin** – Board Member Dr. Franklin to meet with Steve to update district needs statement budget items.
- ❖ **Harlem River Park Update, Board Member Franklin, and Board Member Jeremie** – No new information, will provide update in November. Board Member Dr. Franklin to schedule additional meeting regarding Harlem River Park before election.
- ❖ **Brigadier Charles Young Park Taskforce Update – Board Member Franklin** - Task Force to organize community activation meeting week of the 20th for Brigadier Charles Young Park.
- ❖ **Harlem Park Conditions and Engagement:** - The meeting focused on park conditions and community engagement in Harlem. Abena raised concerns about dog owners not following leash laws and the need for better park enforcement. Manhattan discussed the limited park space in Harlem compared to the rest of the city and updates on various park projects. The committee reviewed letters sent to city officials regarding park expansions and discussed the need for better follow-up on these communications. They also planned upcoming meetings and events related to park improvements and community engagement.

IX. New Business

- ❖ None

X. Old Business

- ❖ **Report on Letters regarding the Resolution passed during June Full Board Meeting** - Committee to follow up on letters sent to Department of Planning, Borough President, and City Council members regarding park boundary expansion to ensure they are not sitting on someone's desk. Board Member Jeremie suggested a new strategy to move the letters along by including Districts 9 & 11.

- ❖ Committee to attend upcoming Community Board 11 meetings regarding park boundary expansion proposal.

XI. Announcements

- ❖ None

XII. Adjournment

- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin call for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Jeremie moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Member Perkinson seconded the motion with a 7-0 vote.
- ❖ Board Member Dr. Franklin adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.