



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Members Present:

Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Mamoudou Diallo, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Marilyn Gurley, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Virginia Bird, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Sadija Cekovic, , Diana Diaz, Lanell Gardenhire, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Angela Hernandez, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez (Leave of Absence), Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Samsondeen Raheem, Carmen Rivera, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Gil Simmons, Lillie Steed and Monique Williams.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Jeffrey A. Laufer, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Francisco Ramirez and Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Vincent Sepulveda, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The November 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:48 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Jacquetta Whaley.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who asked to address the community board as part of the meeting's Community Period included:

Virginia Quinones, representing West Farms Library

Ms. Quinones informed that the New York Public Library is issuing a special edition Spider-Man library card as part of the 60th anniversary year celebration of his first appearance in *Amazing Fantasy #15*. She also announced that the New York Public Library will be launching an after school program that will be a free drop-in program for kids aged 6–12 that takes place after regular school hours, Monday to Thursday, when school is in session. Ms. Quinones also informed us that the branch will be closed starting December 5, 2022 for construction.

Chloe Pitard, representing Fordham University

Ms. Pitard introduced herself and the class of Public Policy and Civic Engagement and from Fordham University.

Ms. Renee Reed

Ms. Reed announced that there will be a Thanksgiving Dinner Food Distribution at Walter Gladwin Park located on Arthur Avenue between East 176th Street and East Tremont Avenue at 12:00 PM on November 22, 2022. She informed us that she is accepting food donations as well as monetary donations through Cashapp at \$sexy2redd. She also informed us that she is seeking volunteers to assist in this event. volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Reed by telephone at (917) 407-3240.

Ms. Annette Wright

Ms. Wright informed us that there aren't litter baskets in the West Farms and East Tremont Avenue area of our district. She requested that litter baskets be placed along the intersections of East 178th Street between Prospect Avenue and Boston Road East 179th Street between Prospect Avenue and Boston Road.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report for was reported by her Director of External Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Laufer. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Mr. Laufer announced that the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson's Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration will be held on November 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Con Sofrito located at 1315 Commerce Avenue. Individuals who are interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP by emailing Sonia Malave smalave@bronxbp.nyc.gov.
- Mr. Laufer also informed us that Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson has released her Statement of Community District Needs that delineates the needs of the borough of the Bronx.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Council Member Feliz informed us that the New York City Districting Commission is currently in the process to ensure council districts continue to reflect population and demographic changes. His City Council district will now encompass more of Bronx Community Board #6's district. Council Member Feliz also informed us that the City Council has passed a package of fire safety related bills in response to the Twin Parks Fire. He also proposed to walk with the residents of our district along East Tremont Avenue or areas of the district to make himself accessible and become aware of community issues that require his attention.

Francisco Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Ramirez informed us that their district office is open for constituent services on Mondays through Thursdays between 10 AM and 6 PM. He informed us that their office is are constituents with Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), Public Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Medicaid applications. Their office also offers housing and legal assistance. Individuals who are interested in these services are encouraged to call their district office at (718) 933-2034 to schedule an appointment. Mr. Ramirez also informed us that as a result of the New York State Senate Redistricting, Senator Gustavo now has part of Allerton and Bronxville under his district jurisdiction. Mr. Ramirez also announced that Ms. Flavia Salazar will be our Community Board Liaison going forward.

Vincent Sepulveda, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Sepulveda informed us that their office is open for constituent services on Mondays through Thursdays from 10 AM to 6 PM. They offer civil legal, immigration, public assistance, housing and tenant protection services. Individuals who are interested in these services are encouraged to call their district office at (718) 991-3161 to schedule an appointment.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara informed us that as a result of the asylum seeker humanitarian crisis, Assemblymember Reyes is receiving hygiene products and monetary donations.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Evonne Capers' chairperson' report included the following information:

- Ms. Capers thanked the Economic Development and Public Safety Committees for their work in taking on the liquor license applications.
- Ms. Capers also thanked the Nominating Committee for preparing the Committee Chairpersons election ballot. She asked member to consider submitting their name for Youth and Education Committee Chair, since the committee does not have a nominee.

- Ms. Capers also informed us that the Aging and LGBT Committee only has one member. As a result, it has been difficult for these committees to conduct business. She encouraged Board Members to sign up for a committee if they haven't already done so.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

Mr. Moure-Punnett's district manager's report included the following information:

- Mr. Moure-Punnett thanked the Committee Chairpersons for utilizing their committee meetings to collect ideas for the Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests. He also thanked the Economic Development Committee for conducting a Participatory Budgeting Session.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also thanked the Board Members who participated in our Pedestrian Safety at East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue Rally on November 7, 2022. As a result of the rally, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson will be following up with the New York City Department of Design and Construction on the funding that was allocated towards the project that will reconstruction this intersection to improve pedestrian safety in 2008.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker informed us that the Disciplinary Committee met and reviewed the complaint filed against a Board Member regarding their conduct during board meetings and communication with other board members. They also reviewed attendance records of Bronx Community Board #6's Board Members and found that fourteen current Board Members are in violation of the Board's attendance policy. They reviewed the attendance policy issue letters to all Board Members in violation of the attendance policy.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa informed us that the Bronx River Alliance presented at the Environment and Parks Committee meeting relation to the New York City Department of Design and Construction's project that will improve pedestrian safety on East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue. She thanked the Board Members that participated in the Pedestrian Safety Rally towards this project and the safety of our community residents.

Ms. Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera informed us that the Health and Human Services had a presentation by Keep It Simple and Safe. They informed the committee that they reclaim health and wellness for neglected communities by creating a sense of championship through their community work. They provide Narcan and fentanyl test strip and harm reduction trainings. They also provide educational and career development services and trainings. They also assist individuals with obtaining public assistance, Medicaid and Medicare, affordable housing and food stamps. Ms. Rivera is recommending that a letter

of support be issued to the New York State Department of Health for Keep It Simple and Safe to become a Second Tier Syringe Exchange Program to service the individuals in our district.

Mr. Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz informed us that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the 521 East Tremont Avenue Rezoning. The committee recommended that the developer work with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to pursue homeownership opportunities in the proposed project and provide employment and training opportunities to local residents. The committee also discussed the creation of a Fordham Law Clinic in collaboration with Fordham Law School and its students to work on pro-bono cases.

Mr. Frank Franz, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz informed us that the Nominating Committee review the list of committees and the submitted nominations. The committee created a ballot that will be used for the Election of Committee Chairpersons. He also informed us that the committee created By-Laws to establish future elections.

Ms. Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Latimer informed us that the new York City Department of Sanitation presented on their Zero Waste Initiative at the Sanitation Committee meeting.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty (20) members.

XI. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The election of Committee Chairpersons did not take place because of the absence of a quorum.

XII. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to issue a conditional letter of support to New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz conditionally supporting the acquisition of the demapped Street on East 178th Street by 420 Morris Park Avenue, LLC. was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
2. A motion to issue a conditional favorable recommendation the New York City Department of City Planning for the 521 East Tremont Avenue Rezoning Uniform Land Use Review Procedure applications #N220307ZRX and #220306ZMX was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Ms. Garcia, and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, zero oppositions, and four abstentions.
 - Bronx Community Board #6 will recommend that the developer work with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to set aside

20% of units in this development as owner-occupied unit and provide employment and training opportunities to local residents.

- 3. A motion to issue a letter of support to the New York State Department of Health supporting Keep It Simple and Safe becoming a Second Tier Syringe Exchange Program was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 4. A motion to issue a letter to Bronx Community Board #6's State Elected Officials to amend State law governing license renewal of automotive shops was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 5. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation opposing the Fordham Road Better Bus Plan was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 6. A motion to sign Bronx River Alliance and Transportation Alternative's East Tremont Avenue and Devoe Avenue Pedestrian Safety Petition was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 7. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of October 12, 2022 was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**
- 8. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's special meeting of October 20, 2022 was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the November 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

