



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

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, New York 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Members Present:

John Barczak, Isaac Bowen, Cornell Brown, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Marilyn Gurley, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Jacquetta Whaley, and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers (Leave of Absence), Mamoudou Diallo, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson (Leave of Absence), Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Raheem, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, and Noorjahan Wells.

Elected Officials Present:

New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Sayda Arriola, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The December 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference Meeting ID: 379 707 8969, and was called to order at approximately 6:41 PM by 1st Vice Chairperson Maria Garcia.

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:

Melissa Guzman, representing SBH Health System

Ms. Guzman informed us about the programs available at the SBH Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue. The Healthplex Fitness Center at the SBH Health and Wellness Center offers classes Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM. Individuals interested in obtaining more information about the center can call (718) 960-9245. She also informed us that there are culinary classes at the cost of \$5 available and the food pantry operates on the weekdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Individuals are encouraged to make reservations by calling (401) 203-3068, but walk-ins are welcomed. Ms. Guzman lastly informed us that the St. Barnabas Hospital is administrating COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations on the weekdays from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan announced that their winter semester classes will begin on January 17, 2023 through April 3, 2023. Individuals who are interested in joining these classes can register online or in-person at the center on Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM and on Saturday between the hours of 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM. She also announced that the Bronx River Art Center will open its 2023 exhibition season with "Scaling Nature", a show of large-scale mixed-media installation works by three artists: Michele Brody, Linda Cunningham and Wildriana Paulino. The exhibition will be presented starting January 19, 2023 through March 4, 2023.

Renee Reed

Ms. Reed requested assistance from us with the Community Board Membership application.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett stated that he will assist Ms. Reed with the application as requested.

Diane George, representing Fordham Faculty United

Ms. George informed us that the union will be going on strike on January 30, 2023 on behalf of the members who are part-time and full-time non-tenured faculty at Fordham University. The members are seeking pay increases, health benefits, and equal representation. Ms. George is requesting a letter of support from the Community Board to be sent to President Tania Tetlow of Fordham University in support of their fight towards a fair contract.

Gregory Hernandez, representing Bronx Independent Cinema Center

Mr. Hernandez informed us that the Bronx Independent Cinema Center is a community development organization created to increase diversity and career opportunities within the film and television industry. Mr. Hernandez is currently seeking volunteers to join the organization. Individuals who are interested in volunteering can visit their website at www.bronxindependentcinemacenter.com/home.

Matthew Martinez, representing 48th Precinct Community Council

Mr. Martinez invited us to attend the 48th Precinct Community Council meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue. The 48th Precinct's Commanding Officer will be in attendance to address community concerns.

Anette Wright

Ms. Wright requested an update from the Community Board in regards to the litter basket request she filled. She requested litter basket to be placed along the following intersections of our district: East 178th Street between Prospect Avenue and Boston Road East 179th Street between Prospect Avenue and Boston Road.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett stated that he will be contacting the Department of Sanitation for an update on this request.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Community Board Liaison, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- **Ms. Ruiz informed us that the Community Board Membership application is now available through Friday, March 3, 2023. The application can be found online at <https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/>.**
- **Ms. Ruiz also informed us that Borough President Gibson will be hosting a Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration event on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church located at 1488 Rev. Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way. Individuals can register for this event by calling (718) 590-3547.**

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Rivera informed us that the New York State Senate Redistricting determined that he will lose 30% of the current district allocations that reside within this district. However, he has gained more of the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden area of our district. Senator Rivera also informed us that his office has an immigration clinic assisting individuals with immigrant issues. Individuals are encouraged to call his office at (718) 933-2034 to schedule an appointment. He also mentioned that he is working with Senator Luis Sepulveda to address our concerns regarding the auto body shops in our

district.

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Sepulveda explained the New York State budget. He explained that Governor Hochul allocated \$7 billion towards making child care affordable, accessible, and fair in the State of New York. He also mentioned that Governor Hochul is going to address the housing crisis. Her plan is to remove obstacles to approvals, grow development opportunities in New York City, and incentivize construction. Her plan will also strengthen existing housing supply and increase support for New York renters and homeowners. They may result in an increase in funds towards housing in the State budget. Senator Sepulveda also mentioned that as part of the New York State Senate Redistricting he gained the areas of the district that were once Senator Rivera's.

Sayda Arriola, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Ms. Arriola informed us that their office offers constituent services and is hosting an immigration clinic. Individuals who are interested in these services can contact their office at (718) 402-6130 to schedule an appointment. She also announced that they are going to be distributing fruits and vegetables at 1270 Southern Boulevard on January 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Maria Garcia's chairperson's report included the following information:

- Ms. Garcia announced that Chairperson Evonne Capers is on a leave of absence and will return to her role in March.
- Ms. Garcia informed us that the Executive Committee met to discuss the responsibilities of a Committee Chairperson.
- Ms. Garcia reminded us that there two amendments for Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that a letter has been sent to Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez of the New York City Department of Transportation expressing our concerns about the Fordham Road Better Bus Plan proposal and their Community Advisory Board process. A letter to our State Elected Officials in regarding the need to regulate auto shops in our district was also sent.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that he has been assisting the Housing and Land-Use Committee with their concern regarding the City's shelter siting policy.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett announced that the East Tremont Avenue Merchant Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Grand Slam Banquet Hall located at 478 East Tremont Avenue.

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 will be hosting a meet and greet on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Bronx Beer Hall located at 2344 Arthur Avenue. Individuals will have the opportunity to learn about community board and our role in local government. He thanked Board Member John Barzack for his idea and efforts and Board Member Paul Ramirez for hosting this event.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced that Board Member Isaac Bowen has chosen do his master's in social work internship at the Bronx Community Board #6's district office. Isaac is currently working on building out a resource directory for our community district.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Franz reported that there's another shelter opening in our district. The Housing and Land-Use Committee expressed concerns about the City's shelter siting policy because there are eight districts in the City of New York that does not have shelters in their district and our district has a total of twenty-three shelters. Mr. Franz stated that as a result of this, the committee will be forming a task force to address this concern, speak with members of the community and the New York City Department of Social Services, and invite Council Member Oswald Feliz to assist.

Ms. Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that SBH Health System presented discussed SBH Health System's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment. SBH Health System discovered that the top health issues identified by residents in SBH Health System's catchment area are Dental Care, Violence (Including Gun Violence), Mental Health, Asthma/Lung Disease, Access to Healthy/Nutritious Foods, COVID-19, and Heart Disease.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-seven (27) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to issue a letter of support to Street Lab in support of their initiative with Equity Design and Bronx Health Reach to bring fitness-based programs to P.S. 32 The Belmont School was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter of support in support of New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz' letter regarding the proposed the New York City Department of Homeless Services' Homeless Shelter on Webster Avenue was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Rosa Peraza, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**

3. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws to eliminate the mention of an "Ad-Hoc Committee" and giving those responsibilities to the standing Disciplinary Committee.

Article III, Section 6 and Section 7 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

"Sec. 6 - All requests for leave of absences should be made in writing to the attention of the Board Chair. Leave of absences will not be granted for more than a three month period. One extension will be granted for an additional three months. If additional time is necessary, the Disciplinary Committee may recommend reapplying for new membership.

Sec. 7 - The Disciplinary Committee will monitor all members who have sporadic or poor attendance; this includes committee meetings."

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Margie Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention.

4. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws to eliminate the Aging Committee as a standing committee. If amended, all business relating to the Aging Committee will be directed to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Article VI, Section 1 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

"Sec. 1 – The following standing committees shall be established:

- A) Disciplinary*
- B) Economic Development*
- C) Environment and Parks*
- D) Health and Human Services*
- E) Housing and Land Use*
- F) LGBTQI/TGNB*
- G) Public Safety*
- H) Transportation*
- I) Sanitation*
- J) Youth and Education*
- K) Veterans*

The Board may create such additional standing committees, as it deems necessary or advisable to conduct business."

was made by Ms. Floretta O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.

- 5. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws to eliminate Section 7 of Article 3 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Margie Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention.**
- 6. A motion table the adoption of the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 14, 2022 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Rosa Peraza, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the January 11, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2023

NAME	ATTENDANCE	LOS STREET LAB	LOS RE: SHELTER SITING POLICY	BY-LAW AMENDMENT RE: AD-HOC COMMITTEE	BY-LAW AMENDMENT RE: AGING COMMITTEE	BY-LAW AMENDMENT RE: REMOVE BP DISCIPLINARY	ADOPTION OF MOTIONS	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon	Absent							
John Barczak	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isaac Bowen	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evonne Capers	Leave of Absence							
Michael Caraballo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mamoudou Diallo	Absent							
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marilyn Gurley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magdamary Marcano	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Francene Miller	Absent							
Michael Nelson	Leave of Absence							
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Reggie Powell	Absent							
Samsondeen Raheem	Absent							
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kristine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carol Robinson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez	Absent							
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noorjahan Wells	Absent							
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monique Williams	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes