



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

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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, March 8, 2023

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Marilyn Gurley, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Samsondeen Rahem, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Noorjahan Wells, Jacquetta Whaley, and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

John Barzack, Cornell Brown, Sadija Cekovic, Mamoudou Diallo, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson (Leave of Absence), Reggie Powell, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez and Gil Simmons.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Ciara Gannon, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Nicol Aguila, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Carlos Torres, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The March 8, 2023 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 6:32 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Floretta O'Brien.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Bridget Brandly and Diana Anello, representing Democracy Prep Endurance Charter High School

Ms. Anello introduced herself as the Principal of Democracy Prep Endurance Charter High School located at 240 East 123rd Street informed us that they will be hosting an enrollment event for middle school and high school.

Melissa Guzman, representing SBH Health System

Ms. Guzman informed us about the programs available at the SBH Health and Wellness Center Ms. Guzman informed us about the resources available at the Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue. They offer cooking classes, health-related services and have food distribution. If an individual is interested in these resources, they can contact the Health and Wellness Center by telephone at (718) 960-9000.

Quinelle Hickman, representing Counseling to Comfort

Ms. Hickman informed us about the counseling services offered at Counseling to Comfort. They offer marriage and family therapy services both in-person and virtually. Individuals can obtain more information at www.counselingtocomfort.com.

Jackeline Lovola, representing Allie's Place

Ms. Loyola informed us about the services offered at Allie's Place located at 1600 Randall Avenue. They offer culinary arts and education services.

Alexis Davila, representing Cardinal McCloskey Community Services

Ms. Davila informed us about the Cardinal McCloskey Community Services' Foster Care program. Their family foster care programs serve children from birth through 21 years of age. Family foster care services help children who are in need of temporary safe placement while the families work to address concerns that brought children into care. Their treatment family foster care provides youth 3 through 21 years of age with an additional level of clinical support and service delivery to address complex needs of youth in foster care.

Matthew Martinez, representing the 48th Precinct's Community Council

Mr. Martinez announced that the next 48th Precinct's Community Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Abraham Plaza located at 1870 Crotona Avenue.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Director of Community Boards, Ms. Ciara Gannon. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- **Ms. Gannon introduced herself as the new District of Community Boards. She also announced that the Community Board membership application deadline has been extended to Wednesday, March 15, 2023.**

The application can be found online at <https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards>.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Leonardo Coello, representing New York City Eric Adams

Mr. Coello informed us that Mayor Adams is intending to combat smoke shops and is requesting assistance in identifying smoke shops within the district. He is also working towards assisting businesses by creating a policy where store owners should be responsible for policing their own businesses by asking individuals to remove their masks upon entering their establishments, but offering them the option to put them back on once inside the stores.

Nicole Aguila, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Ms. Aguila informed us that their office will be offering immigration services by an immigrant lawyer. Their district office is located at 573 East Fordham Road.

Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Salazar informed us that their office is offering housing assistance services partnered with NAICA. Their office is located at 2432 Grand Concourse. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (718) 933-2034.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us that the State budget funds for the district will be allocated towards supporting transportation, mental health, wrongful convictions, and mental health. They will also be requesting funding for a community health network at the Tremont Health Action Center. Ms. Cardus also informed us that they are still offering free legal assistance with New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) by appointment. Their district office is located at 900 Rogers Place.

Carlos Torres, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Torres announced that their office will be hosting their annual Re-Entry Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 for individuals who were formerly incarcerated to receive assistance including health benefits, job opportunities, identification. They are also going to be hosting a Bronx Child Safety Fair on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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

- **Ms. Capers informed us that there are two By-Laws amendments. The amendments are in regards to attendance policy and in-person sitting arrangements.**
- **Ms. Capers announced that our memorial mass of the 33rd anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 3:00 PM at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Church.**
- **Ms. Capers also informed us that the street co-naming for Jannie Armstrong will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 1:00 PM on East 180th Street and Clinton Avenue. The street co-naming for Mary Mitchell will be the same day at 3:00 PM on Mapes Avenue between East 180th Street and East 181st Street.**
- **Ms. Capers reminded Board Members to sign up to be a member of a standing committee if they haven't done so already.**

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett reminded Board Members to submit their membership reappointment application.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that he was contacted by the New York City's Office of Technology and Innovation about the installation of a 5G cell tower within 10 feet of a residential building in our district. The Health and Human Services Committee will be reviewing this and hearing from an advocacy organization that works around radiation exposure issues.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that as a result of letter sent to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting a summary of their efforts to seek concessionaires for the Fordham Plaza Market kiosk several news outlets reached out the Board to do stories. He thanked the Board Members who participated in the interviews.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker informed us that the Disciplinary Committee reviewed the American with Disabilities Act to ensure that the Board is in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. He also informed

us that the committee met with Board Members with poor meeting attendance and discussed on committee meeting attendance enforcement.

Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee was informed about the Fordham Workforce 1 Center. The Workforce 1 Centers are designed to prepare and connect individuals 18 and older with employment across the five boroughs. She also reported that the committee discussed the East Tremont Avenue Merchant meeting and the concerns that were expressed by the business owners.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that New York City Department of Environmental Protection informed the Environment and Parks Committee about their amnesty program. The Environment and Parks Committee also discussed and planned the Happy Land 33rd Anniversary Memorial. The memorial will consist of a mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church followed by a prayer and vigil at the Happy Land Monument located at East Tremont Avenue and Southern Boulevard.

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

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed shelter siting advocacy and the contract for the **** Webster Avenue shelter. The Community Board's staff reached out to the Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, inquiring about the legality of the New York City Department of Homeless Services' contract for the new proposed shelter. He also reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the Fordham Law Clinic at Bronx Community Board #6. The committee discussed facilitating a meeting with local homeowner's associations alongside tenants in the district to ensure a wider breadth of legal needs regarding housing can be addressed.

Mr. John Barczak, LGBTQI/TGNB Committee Chairperson

Mr. Barczak reported that the LGBTQI/TGNB Committee discussed strategies to best use and integrate existing LGBTQI/TGNB resources within the district into the work of Bronx Community Board #6. The committee recognizes that there is a need for more outreach and awareness regarding resources available in the district, especially for the LGBTQI/TGNB community. Therefore, the committee will begin to draft a handout regarding what it means to have a LGBTQI/TGNB safe space to give businesses, alongside an item to signify to the public that a business is a safe space.

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed liquor license applications for the following establishments: Barn Yard Barbeque Corp located at 582 East Fordham Road, La Cantina Mex Bar and Lounge located at 2467 Arthur Avenue, The Patio located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, Zoo Brews located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, Wild Asia located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, The Pecking Order located at 2300 Southern Boulevard, and Somba Village located at 2300 Southern Boulevard. After careful review and consideration, the Public Safety Committee issued a recommendation for these establishments. Ms. Rivera also informed us that the committee Discussion on conversations with Cure Violence programming in Bronx Community Board #6.

Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee discussed and reviewed the letter to the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) regarding the East 177th Street, East Tremont Avenue, Devoe Avenue Project and the letter to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting a summary of their efforts to seek concessionaires for the Fordham Plaza Market kiosk.

Mr. Michael Caraballo, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Mr. Caraballo reported that the Youth and Education Committee discussed a possible Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) enrollment event.

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 request an audit on the New York City Department of Design and Construction's Reconstruction of East 177th Street, Devoe Avenue, Sheridan Expressway Ramp capital project and the New York City Department of Transportation's Fordham Plaza Market renovation capital project and concessionaire search from New York City Comptroller Brad Lander was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, second by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to end debate during the remaining adoptions of motions was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, one opposition, and one abstention.**
- 3. A motion to remove Board Member Mamadou Diallo for failure to comply with the probationary period set forth by the Disciplinary Committee on January 2023 was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, three oppositions, and four abstention.**
- 4. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the Board Member sitting arrangement at in-person meetings.**

Article IV, Section 10 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

“Attendance shall be taken at every hearing or meeting. Each member shall be marked “present” or “absent”. In an effort to present a unified board to the public, members are required to sit as a body when marked “present”.”

was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, four oppositions, and three abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Paul Ramirez was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

5. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the committee meetings attendance and membership.

Article III, Section 4 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

“An appointed member may be removed for cause by the Borough President or by a majority of the appointed members of the Board. Cause shall include three consecutive absences from meetings or the absence from more than one-half of the meetings in a period of any one year; lack of participation or attendance at more than half of committee meetings within a year, three consecutive committee meetings, or failure to sign up for a committee within 60 days of appointment to the board, or misrepresenting the Board.”

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Laura James, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, two oppositions and six abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Paul Ramirez was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

6. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of February 8, 2023 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero oppositions and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Member Paul Ramirez was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
7. A motion to create a committee to review and submit amendments to Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-six in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Paul Ramirez was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the March 8, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

