



**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, October 12, 2022

Members Present:

Isaac Bowen, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Marilyn Gurley, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Francene Miller, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Noorjahan Wells, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, John Barczak, Virginia Bird, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Michael Caraballo, Sadija Cekovic, Mamoudou Diallo, Diana Diaz, Julisa Hamilton, Audrey Harden, Angela Hernandez, Matthew Martinez (Leave of Absence), Reggie Powell, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, and Lillie Steed.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Paula Caquias, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams
Julio Cesar Herrera, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Robert Spencer, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Greer Mayher, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The October 12, 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 6:43 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:

Isabel Pastor, representing SBH Health System

Ms. Pastor announced that SBH Health System will be hosting a Free Breast Cancer Screening event in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM on the Ambulatory Surgery Parking Lot (entrance through the Emergency Room side on East 183rd Street and Third Avenue). She also announced that they will be hosting their 3rd Annual Trunk and Treat event on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Ms. Pastor also informed us that individuals are welcome to tour their Health and Wellness Center facility.

Keith Shivers

Mr. Shivers informed us that the elevator in 1870 Clinton Avenue has been out of service since July 2022. He informed us that the property manager has been contacted, but no assistance has been received. Mr. Shivers requested assistance from the Community Board with this matter.

District Manager Moure-Punnett informed Mr. Shivers that this property has received a violation for the out of service elevator and has an OATH hearing scheduled on November 4, 2022. Following the OATH hearing, the property owner will be at risk of a violation if the situation is not addressed by then.

Walter Bell, representing Keep It Simple and Safe (KISS)

Mr. Bell informed us that he is seeking a letter of support from the Community Board to the New York State Department of Health supporting Keep It Simple and Safe becoming a Second Tier Syringe Exchange Program.

District Manager Moure-Punnett explained the process of obtaining a letter of support from the Community Board and invited Mr. Bell to present at the next Health and Human Services Committee meeting.

Aretha Sullivan, representing Tremont Library

Ms. Sullivan informed us that the Tremont Library will be having a job fair where individuals will have the opportunity to meet with employers and job training providers. They will also be offering resume and job application support on site. The job fair will be held on October 26, 2022 from 1 PM to 4 PM at the library located at 1866 Washington Avenue. She also informed us that the library offers after school program services.

Laura James, representing River Garden

Ms. James announced that River Garden will be having their First Annual HarvFest the on October 22, 2022 from 12 PM to 6 PM and October 23, 2022 from 12 PM to 4 PM. River Garden is located on the corner of East 180th Street and Devoe Avenue. There will be activities for children and families.

Michele Brody, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Brody announced that the fall art classes began at the Bronx River Art Center and that registration is still available. Their fall art classes consist of ceramics, crochet, digital photography and illustration and the Bronx River Art Center provides the art materials necessary to their class participants. She also informed us that Bronx River Art Center continues with the presentation of the monthly Artist Talk and Presentation series *In Conversation* on October 22, 2022 at 5 PM. Gail Nathan and Hector Canonge, organizers of this exhibition, will be in conversation with participating teaching artists and studio resident artists featured in the current exhibition *Convergence: Artists and Community*.

Gail Blackmen

Ms. Blackmen also informed us about the out of service elevator at 1807 Clinton Avenue.

Floretta O'Brien, representing Neighborhood Advisory Board — Bronx 06

Ms. O'Brien informed us about the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development's Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs). The Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs) provide residents of low-income communities with an opportunity to help the Department of Youth and Community Development identify funding priorities. Ms. O'Brien encouraged us to complete the survey to assist their board with identifying the needs of the district.

Kristallynn Leonard

Ms. Leonard announced youth and young adult services and programs that are for betterment.

Jason Caraballo, representing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mr. Caraballo introduced himself at the Director of Community Engagement. He also informed us that there are Monkeypox Vaccine Clinics available to receive the vaccination.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report for the month of October will be sent via email.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Paula Caquias, representing New York City Mayor Eric Adams

Ms. Caquias informed us that Mayor Adams issued Emergency Executive Order 224, formally directing all relevant city agencies to coordinate their efforts to respond to the asylum seeker humanitarian crisis and construct the city's Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers.

Julio Herrera, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Herrera 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.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara announced that Assemblymember Reyes will be having her Third Annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 29, 2022 between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM in the Parking Lot of Saint Helena’s Church located at 1315 Olmstead Avenue. She also informed us that Assemblymember Reyes will be partnering with the local churches to conduct a coat drive for the asylum seekers.

Robert Spencer, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Spencer announced that announced that District Attorney Clark will be hosting her Fifth Annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The event will begin at 9:30 AM at East 161st Street between Grand Concourse and Walton Avenue.

Greer Mayher, representing New York City Comptroller Brad Lander

Mr. Mayher informed us that the City of New York (“the City”) announced the sale of \$1.35 billion of General Obligation Bonds, comprised of \$950 million of tax-exempt fixed rate bonds and \$400 million of taxable fixed rate bonds designated as Social Bonds. Proceeds of the tax-exempt bond sale will be used to fund capital projects. The taxable fixed rate Social Bonds will fund affordable housing. The Social Bonds received a second party opinion from S&P Global Ratings affirming alignment of the bonds with the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Social Bond Principles.

VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

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

- Ms. Capers informed us that the Executive Committee met to review and discussed the By-Laws and Robert’s Rules of Order. Moving forward, the Community Board will adhere to Robert’s Rules of Order during our meetings. They also met to review the responsibilities of the Committee Chairpersons.**
- Ms. Capers also informed us that a Disciplinary Committee was formed to address Board Member attendance and conduct issues.**

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that he would like to amend the process by which liquor license applications are reviewed in the Community Board.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett announced that the process for the Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests will be starting at the Committee Meetings this month.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced that Bronx Community Board #6 is participating in the Citywide Participatory Budgeting process, being led by the Commission on Civic Engagement. They will be conducting their Participatory Budgeting sessions where individuals will have an opportunity to submit ideas to address our community needs on October 26, 2022 and November 3, 2022.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that there are Board Members who haven't completed their Committee Membership Preference sheet.**

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on BSA Application for a Special Permit for 591 East Fordham Road, Bronx, New York (BSA Calendar No. 2022-59-BZ) to reinstate a previously expired variance to allow, in R6B and C-45D zoning districts, an automobile repair establishment was held. No one requested to testify as a speaker for this public hearing.

IX. 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.

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

Mr. Franz informed us that 420 MORRIS AVENUE LLC informed the committee that they are still looking acquire the property that was demapped on East 178th Street between East Tremont Avenue and Morris Park Avenue in the West Farms area of the district to facilitate the as-of-right development. The committee recommended that a conditional letter of support be issued to New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz on the condition that the property, including the former street area, is redeveloped with uses that are needed in and beneficial to the community, including, for example, a full service grocery store, fitness club, medical offices, and/or youth center. The committee was informed that Hirschen Singer & Epstein LLP submitted an application submitted on behalf of Mel Mar Development Corp. pursuant to Section 11-41 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York for a special permit to reinstate a previously expired variance to allow, in R6B and C-45D zoning districts, an automobile repair establishment. The committee recommended that a favorable recommendation be made to New York City Board of Standards and Appeals in regards to this application.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-four (24) members.

XI. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

As a result of an election that was performed by a ballot, the community board elected the following individuals to serve as the board's executive officers for the two-year term that begins November 1, 2022 and ends October 31, 2024.

**Evonne Capers, Board Chairperson
Maria Garcia, 1st Vice-Chairperson
Laura James, 2nd Vice-Chairperson
Margarita Espinosa, Secretary
Magdamary Marcano, Treasurer
Gil Simmons, Parliamentarian**

XII. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 8, 2022 was made by Ms. Noorjahan Wells, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of September 12, 2022 was made by Ms. Floretta O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty-four in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions.**
- 3. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the implementation of an election process for the Committee Chairpersons.**

Article VI, Section 2 of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws would read as follows:

"Each standing committee shall consist of an elected committee Chairperson and members as appointed by the Board. Committee Chairpersons shall be members of the Board, but other committee members need not be Board members. No person may serve as Chairperson of more than one standing committee. Committee Chairpersons will be elected through the same process as the Board officers, as described in Article V Section 2. A nominating committee may prepare a ballot of both Board officers and Committee Chairpersons in one process."

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero opposition and one abstention. (Please note that Board Member, Lanell Gardenhire, was not present during this motion.)

4. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws regarding the Board's standing committees.

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

"The following standing committees shall be established:

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

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

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of twenty-two in favor, zero opposition and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Member, Lanell Gardenhire, was not present during this motion.)*

5. A motion to return to the Executive Committee to review and discuss Community Coordinator Carla Leon's compensation as per her out of title union grievance for performing the duties and responsibilities of a District Manager was made by Mr. Frank Franz, Ms. Evonne Capers, and was not adopted by a vote of two in favor, sixteen oppositions and three abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member, Lanell Gardenhire, was not present during this motion.)*
6. A motion to compensate Community Coordinator Carla Leon with two payments totaling \$31,000 as per her out of title union grievance for performing the duties and responsibilities of a District Manager since January 3, 2022 to July 4, 2022. A first payment will be issued as soon as an approval is received from the New York City Mayor's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Fiscal Year 2023 and a second payment will be issued on Fiscal Year 2024 on July 1, 2023 was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
7. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo for the development of the Gelada & Ibex Management and Breeding Complex was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.
8. 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.

- 9. 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 not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**

- 10. A motion to issue a letter of support to Mel Mar Development Corp. regarding their BSA Application (BSA Calendar No. 2022-59-BZ) for a Special Permit for 591 East Fordham Road, Bronx, New York to reinstate a previously expired variance to allow, in R6B and C-45D zoning districts, an automobile repair establishment was not voted on because of the absence of a quorum.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the October 12, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2022

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2022	MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022	BY-LAWS ADMENDMENT 1	BY-LAWS ADMENDMENT 2	REVIEW COMPENSATION FOR CARLA LEON	COMPENSATION FOR CARLA LEON	LOS BRONX ZOO	LOS 420 MORRIS AVENUE	521 EAST TREMONT AVENUE	LOS BSA APPLICAT ION	ADJOURN MENT
Clarita Bailon												
John Barczak												
Virginia Bird												
Michelle Bialeck												
Isaac Bowen	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Cornell Brown												
Yvonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Michael Caraballo												
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Sadija Cekovic												
Mamoudou Diallo												
Diana Diaz												
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes									
Marilyn Gurley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Julisa Hamilton												
Audrey Harden												
Angela Hernandez												
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Magdamary Marcano	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Matthew Martinez	Leave of Absence											
Francene Miller	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain						
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Floretta O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Rosa Peraza	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	No						
Reggie Powell												
Samsondeen Raheem												
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Carmen Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Kristine Rivera	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Carol Robinson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Maria Ruiz Gutierrez												
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain						
Lillie Steed												
Noorjahan Wells	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No						
Monique Williams												
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain						