



**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

Economic Development, HHS, Parks, LGBTQI Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson: Margarita Espinosa

Economic Development Committee Chairperson: Nicole Carter

Health and Human Services, Veterans, & Aging Committee Chairperson: Kristine Rivera

Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson: Margarita Espinosa

LGBTQI Committee Chairperson: John Barczak

The Environment and Parks Committee met on September 20, 2023 via Zoom Audio and Video Conference and in-person at the district office. The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Margarita Espinosa, Reggie Powell, Rene Reed

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following information:

Drew Community Garden - Mario Figueroa, Vice President and Jerry McCray, Maintenance Coordinator

DCG strives to reduce food insecurity, raise nutritional awareness, and improve healthy habits through hands-on education. Adults and children can learn about gardening, urban farming, and herbal wellness during workshops, and have access to community garden beds. DCG requests a letter of support, which is required to open a bank account. The bank account will allow DCG to manage and record expenses. The community garden does not state nor federal funds, but receives financial support in the form of membership dues. The committee expressed interest in coordinating a site visit for board members. The board will meet on October 11, 2023, and vote on the request for the letter of support.

- A motion to issue a letter of support to Drew Community Garden in reference to an application for a bank account was made by Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Rene Reed, and adopted unanimously.

New Yorkers for Parks - Daniel Abram, Project Manager of Research and Policy

NY4P, founded over 100 years ago, is the only independent, city-wide organization that advocates for quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers. NY4P requests a letter of support that advocates for the budgetary needs of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. The organization also invites the board to sign and share the petition for committing 1% of the City's operating budget to NYC Parks and to attend rallies. NY4P will provide the template for the letter of support

- A motion to issue a letter of support in favor of allocating 1% of the City's operating budget to NYC Parks was made by Margarita Espinosa, seconded by _____, and adopted unanimously.

Popular Bank - Yaniris Nunez, Branch Manager and David Lee, Senior Leader

Popular Bank has been in business for over 130 years and is one of the largest banking institutions in the United States. It is a minority institution, meaning over 50% of its top executives are minorities. In 2018, Popular Bank applied to become a banking development district with Community Board 6 and was approved by the NYS Department of Finance. The "Banking Development District" (BDD) program addresses the need for banking services in underserved areas. As part of the BDD program directives, Popular's banking services increase access to capital, financial literacy education, and maintain a commitment to operate branches in underbanked areas. Popular Bank wants to formally partner with the board to reach individuals and CBOs who may benefit from financial literacy workshops. The board will coordinate with Popular Bank regarding content or topics that can be presented and event promotion.

Update on East Tremont Merchant Outreach

District Manager, Rafael Moure-Punnett proposed inviting a Merchant Association executive or director to conduct a presentation. The goal is for merchants in the community to build their capacity to lead efforts in promoting businesses and attracting customers, such as beautifying storefronts.

District Needs

The following topics from the 2023 District Needs Report were revisited: Funding for Mt. Carmel Senior Center, workforce programming, subsidized housing, and nonprofit services.