



**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, June 14, 2023

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, John Barzack, Isaac Bowen, Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Samsondeen Rahem, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Lisa Sanchez, Jacquetta Whaley and Monique Williams.

Members Absent:

Michael Caraballo, Maria Garcia, Matthew Martinez, Francene Miller (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Carol Robinson, Gil Simmons, and Noorjahan Wells.

Elected Officials Present:

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Ciara Gannon, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Freddy Perez, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes
Martin Munoz, representing New York State Assemblymember George Alvarez
Nanette Alvarado, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres
Kim Watson-Benjamin, representing New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The June 14, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Communications Meeting ID: 379 707 8969, and was called to order at approximately 6:33 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Isaac Bowen.

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 the board that there are several opportunities available at the SBH Health System's Health and Wellness Center including fitness classes and cooking classes. If an individual is interested in these resources, they can contact the Health and Wellness Center by telephone at (718) 960-9000. Ms. Guzman also invited us to their Juneteenth event at the Sycamore Grove from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. They are also having an event in celebration of Pride Month on Thursday, June 29, 2023 from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

Chantal Pierre, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Pierre informed us about the upcoming events hosted by the Bronx River Sound Performance Festival.

Gary Dearborn, representing New York Restoration Project

Mr. Dearborn informed us that the New York Restoration Project is requesting support from the Community Board to conduct capital improvements at Perry's Garden located at 2139 Daly Avenue.

Angela Hanson, representing NYC Smoke-Free

Ms. Hanson informed us about NYC Smoke-Free's advocacy to combat tobacco addiction by supporting collaborative efforts against tobacco, educating the public about tobacco, and advocating for smoke free areas to reduce tobacco use.

John Barczak, Community Resident

Mr. Barczak informed us that Bronx Food Co located at 2368 Hoffman Street engages with food delivery services that utilizes mopeds to make deliveries. He informed us that this intersection is often blocked by the delivery men and requesting assistance with this matter.

Jessica Toro, representing Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation

Ms. Toro encouraged us to participate in the New York Citywide Participatory Budgeting voting process that will conclude on Sunday, June 25, 2023. Individuals over the age of 11 are encouraged to vote online or in-person.

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 informed us that Community Board membership appointments and reappointments will be finalized by the beginning of July.
- Ms. Gannon also invited us to Borough President Gibson's Juneteenth event on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 12:00 PM at Bronx Borough Hall at 851 Grand Concourse.
- Ms. Gannon also invited us to Borough President Gibson's Caribbean Heritage Celebration on Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Code Red on 1320 East Gun Hill Road.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Council Member Feliz informed us that City Council passed a bill to strengthen fire safety related to e-bikes and lithium-ion batteries. Council Member Feliz also informed us that he feels confident of obtaining \$2 million in capital funds to renovate the Crotona Parkway Malls and the Belmont Playground in our district, but will provide us with additional information in regards to these funds once it has been approved.

Martin Munoz, representing New York State Assemblymember George Alvarez

Mr. Williams provided us with some legislative updates on the following bills sponsored by Assemblymember Alvarez: A82896 is an energy infrastructure bill that protects people's information; A84620 is a bill that ensures that advertised commerce that is available at a certain price must be available for two weeks at that price; and A86868 is a bill that establishes a tax credit that ensures that individuals who pay 30% of their income on taxes qualify for a tax credit that returns money. Mr. Williams also invited to the Juneteenth event that they are co-hosting with SBH Health System at the Sycamore Grove from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Nanette Alvarado, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Alvarado encouraged individuals to check their passport's expiration date prior to travel and provided information surrounding the process of renewing an expired passport.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus provided us with some legislative updates on the following bills sponsored by Senator Sepulveda: Senate Bill S66828 is a bill that makes improvements to the transportation systems, particularly the Metro North, in which the Metro North will create 4 more stations to extend mobility; and Senate Bill S2789 is a bill that extends the addressed confidentiality program to include victims of revenge porn, in which now victims of domestic violence can now receive assistance and it has passed.

Mr. Cardus also informed us that their office is continuing to provide NYLAG legal services. Individuals who are interested in receiving further information and constituent assistance, can contact his office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or by email at team@senatorsepulveda.com. Their office is open by appointment only.

Karime Vergara, representing New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes

Ms. Vergara provided us with some legislatures updates on bills that are sponsored by Assemblymember Reyes: A5608 is a bill that will amend the labor law to ensure that workers are being paid a fair wage when doing contracting; and A5080 is a bill that deploys a task force that focuses on finding women of color that often go underrepresented in the media.

Freddy Perez, representing New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Perez provided us with some legislatures updates on bills that are sponsored by Council Member Salamanca Jr.: Int 0891 is a bill that would allow sports venues throughout New York City to conduct raffles for charitable purposes; Int 0743 is a bill would require that City employees who can issue summons or notices of violation, when questioning people, provide a business card with identifying information upon request; and Int 0200 is a bill that would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to submit to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council, and make publicly available on their website, a semiannual report on the number of objections filed by multiple dwelling owners to the agency's lead abatement orders. Mr. Perez also informed us that there will be a Movie Under the Stars on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at Playground 52 from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Kim Watson-Benjamin, representing New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

Ms. Watson informed us that Public Advocate Williams introduced his Worst Landlord Accountability Act to combat the practices of some of the worst landlords in New York City and support tenants in need of relief and repairs. Ms. Watson also announced that Public Advocate Williams will be hosting several events throughout the summer.

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena informed us that Council Member Feliz is deliberating on the proposed New York City Budget for the next fiscal year and is requesting input from the community to better equip the City to allocate funds properly.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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

- Ms. Capers informed us that Bronx Community Boards #5 and #6 held a joint meeting to discuss shelter sitting in our communities.
- Ms. Capers also mentioned that in anticipation of the joint meeting, she met with Deputy Commissioner Maricka Scott- McFadden from the New York City Department of Social Services to discuss the concerns the Board raised in the letter sent to the agency in January.

- Ms. Capers also informed us that there is a proposed By-Laws amendment that would fold the Veterans Committee into the Health and Human Services Committee.
- Ms. Capers also informed us that the Board will be hosting a Focus Group on Friday, June 30, 2023 for Board Members to further discuss what issues the Board should be working on next year.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that we have received a total of 45 applications for the Community Associate position. He has prepared a list of questions to ask the candidates for the first-round interviews and is opened to input from Board Members. He informed us that he will be conducting the first round of interviews with Community Coordinator Carla Leon and will select a few candidates for a second round of interviews.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that Civic Engagement Commission is conducting voting for the People's Money, a participatory budgeting project where New Yorkers will determine how \$5 million in Mayoral discretionary funds are spent. Bronx Community Board #6 is a high needs district in this process, therefore, residents from the district can vote. Individuals can vote here: on.nyc.gov/pb
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also announced the upcoming Bronx Community Board #6's meetings and events for the month of June.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Rosa Peraza, By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee Chairperson

Ms. Peraza informed us that the By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee continued their reviewing process of Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws. As A result, the committee is submitting a recommendation to Article 1 and an amendment to the proposed amendment of Article VI, Section 1.

Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Chairperson

Ms. Carter informed us that the Economic Development Committee proposed to conduct an East Tremont Avenue Merchant Fair. The fair will consist of inviting a minimum of 15 businesses that will either provide music, refreshments, and merchandise to the community. This will stimulate social harmony and support merchants. The Economic Development Committee will table this until the board's expenditures on this event can be better delineated.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa informed us that the Environment and Parks Committee discuss a Chess Tournament Proposal, but did not yet have a cost estimate for this proposal, and decided to table until a specific cost could be presented at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Evonne Capers, Executive Committee Chairperson

Ms. Capers informed us that the Executive Committee reviewed Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget and discussed the hiring of a Part-Time Community Associate. She also informed us that the Executive Committee was informed that the ability to hold virtual meetings was granted due to the state of emergency in New York. However, since the state of emergency is no longer in effect, it will be necessary to conduct meetings in person. The Executive Committee also discussed and reviewed District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett's self-performance evaluation.

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

Mr. Franz informed us that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the New York City Department of City Planning on the Carbon Neutrality Zoning Text Amendment and recommended that a letter of support to the New York City Department of City Planning in support. They were also informed of the services at the Bronx Parent Housing Network (BPHN). Mr. Franz also informed us that Bronx Community Board #6 submitted a Freedom of Information Law request to the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

Mr. John Barczak, LGBTQI/TGNB Committee Chairperson

Mr. Barczak reported that the LGBTQI/TGNB Committee was informed about the services offered in Bronx Parent Housing Network (BPHN) Inc.'s HIV/AIDS program. The committee also informed about the services offered at Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE).

Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety Committee reviewed liquor license applications for the following establishments: Cakor Restaurant located at 632 East 186th Street, El Lider Restaurant Corp. located at 4535 Park Avenue, Sazon and Sabores Restaurant located at 485 East 180th Street, Briska Grocery located at 2333 Arthur Avenue, Billar El Nuevo Ambiente located at 408 East Tremont Avenue, Bar and Restaurant El Salvadoreno located at 451 Morris Park Avenue, and MME Banquet Hall located at 861 East 180th Street. After careful review and consideration, the Public Safety Committee issued a recommendation for these establishments.

Ms. Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Latimer informed us that the Sanitation Committee was informed that the Board's office had not received any new sanitation constituent complaints.

Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee discussed Board Member Frank Franz's traffic control proposal for East 191st Street. The Transportation Committee discussed Senator Gustavo Rivera's Auto Repair Shop Oversight Bill S.5936. The Transportation Committee also expressed concerns in regards to the Safety Improvement Project on Southern Boulevard between East 182nd Street and East Fordham Road. Ms. Sanchez informed us that the Transportation Committee was informed that the New York City Department of Transportation has not provided the Community Board with an update in regard to the Café Building and Kiosk 2 at Fordham Plaza. As a result, the Transportation Committee determined that they will be conducting a rally. The Transportation Committee was also informed that the New York City Department of Design and

Construction has not provided an update in regard to the Devoe Avenue, Boston Road and East 177th Street Project.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett, reporting on behalf of the Youth and Education Committee Chairperson, Michael Caraballo, who was absent

District Manager Moure-Punnett informed us that the Youth and Education Committee reviewed the River Garden's funding proposal. The Youth and Education Committee discussed need for programming in the district and determined and voted unanimously that option 3 of the submitted proposals from River Garden to be funded.

IX. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming a quorum with the presence of twenty-one (21) members.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to limit debate during the adoption of motions was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, two oppositions and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Member, Nicole Carter, was not present during the voting of this motion.)***
- 2. A motion to issue a letter of support to the New York City Department of City Planning in support of their City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality (COYCN) Zoning Text Amendment ULURP Number: N230113ZRY was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, second by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)***
- 3. A motion to support the 48th Precinct Community Council's National Night Out's funding proposal request was made by Ms. Clarita Bailon, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)***
- 4. A motion to support the River Garden's Story Time (Option 3) funding proposal request was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Monique Williams, and adopted by a vote of a seventeen in favor, one opposition, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)***
- 5. A motion to issue a letter to the New York State elected officials representing Drew Gardens requesting that the New York State Department of Transportation reopen the garden as soon as possible was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, one opposition, and one abstention. *(Please note that***

Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)

6. A motion to issue a letter in support of Senator Gustavo Rivera’s Auto Repair Shop Oversight Bill S.5936, creating public hearings with New York City’s Community Boards and the New York City Police Department for their input for auto shop license renewal was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, one opposition, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
7. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Department of Transportation requesting reevaluation of the Southern Boulevard Safety Improvement project was made by Ms. Monique Williams, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
8. A motion to remove Board Member Cornell Brown for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board #6’s By-Laws regarding attendance was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Monique Williams, and was not adopted by a vote of zero in favor, sixteen opposed, and three abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
9. A motion to remove Board Member Sadija Cekovic for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board #6’s By-Laws regarding attendance was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and was not adopted by a vote of zero in favor, sixteen opposed, and three abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
10. A motion to remove Board Member Isaac Bowen for failure to comply with the probationary period set forth by the Disciplinary Committee in May 2023 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, and was not adopted by a vote of zero in favor, sixteen opposed, and three abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
11. A motion to amend Article VI, Section 1 of Bronx Community Board #6’s By-Laws regarding the standing committees.

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

“Sec. 1 – The following standing committees shall be:

- 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*

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

was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

12. A motion to amend the amendment of Article VI, Section 1 of Bronx Community Board #6’s By-Laws regarding the standing committees.

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

“Sec. 1 – The following standing committees shall be:

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

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

was made by was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

13. A motion to issue a letter of support for the New York Restoration Project’s renovations to Perry’s Garden, pending Bronx Community Board #6’s Environment and Park Committee’s review of the project was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Monique Williams, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

14. A motion to allow for hybrid meetings for Bronx Community Board #6’s Committee Meetings with 24 hour advance approval from the Community Board’s office for virtual Board Member Attendance and Voting was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, one opposition, and zero abstention.

(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)

15. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of May 10, 2023 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, zero oppositions, and one abstention. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*
16. A motion to provide District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett with a salary increase of 10% was made by Ms. Lisa Sanchez and seconded by Mr. Reggie Powell. A motion to table this item until September was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, three opposed, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that board members Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer were not present during the voting of this motion.)*
17. A motion to issue a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation to utilize the property located at East Tremont Avenue and East 177th Street (next to Drew Gardens) for the New York City Department of Design and Construction's Devoe Avenue, Boston Road and East 177th Street Project was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero oppositions, and zero abstentions. *(Please note that Board Members, Nicole Carter and Maria Latimer, was not present during the voting of this motion.)*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the June 14, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

