



**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, October 11, 2023

Members Present:

Isaac Bowen, Cornell Brown, Nicole Carter, Frank Franz, Melissa Guzman, Gail Irby, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Renee Reed, Carol Robinson, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Monique Williams, and Annette Wright.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, John Barzack, Bridget Brantley, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Sadija Cekovic, Sadonia Croom, Margarita Espinosa, Maria Garcia, Matthew Martinez (Leave of Absence), Francene Miller, Samsondeen Raheem, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Yamelith Rivera, Gil Simmons, Noorjahan Wells, and Angelina Zervos (Leave of Absence).

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Flavia Salazar, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Brent Schneider, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Raishiel Muniz, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The October 11, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Bronx River Art Center located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue, and was called to order at approximately 6:39 PM by 2nd Vice-Chairperson Laura James.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was not delivered.

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 upcoming events hosted by SBH Health System. They will be hosting a Women's Wellness Health Seminar on October 19, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the SBH Health and Wellness Center. All interested attendees must register in advance by emailing Isabel Pastor at ipastor@sbhny.org. They are also going to be joining the 5th Annual Sisters Supporting Sisters' Women of Color Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on October 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Crotona Park. They are also going to be joining P.S. 32 at their Hispanic Heritage Month celebration with Open Streets on October 24, 2023 from 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM. Ms. Guzman also announced that as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, SBH Health System will be having a mobile mammogram vehicle at P.S. 23 on October 25, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Ms. Guzman also reminded us that their Healthplex Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM and Saturday through Sunday from 9:00 AM to 4 PM.

Johnny Lozada, representing School of Professional and Continuing Studies

Mr. Lozada informed us about the degree options and certificate programs offered at Lehman College's School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Gail Nathan, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan announced the Bronx River Art Center's on-going exhibition, Pick Me Up, Put Me On. This exhibition is a visual conversation between Estelle Maisonnét and Oscar Morel, two Bronx-born artists who exemplify the enduring resonance of collage through themes of community, identity, and place. Ms. Nathan also announced that their fall semester of art classes began on October 2, 2023 and registration is still available.

Renee Reed

Ms. Reed is a community member who is organizing her annual 'Thanksgiving Giveback' event on November 21, 2023 at Walter Gladwin Park. She will be distributing warm meals and good condition clothing. Ms. Reed encouraged individuals to donate food and clothing items for this event. She can be contacted at (917) 407-3240.

Kingsley Taylor and Amiel Lucre, representing Bronx River Community Garden

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Lucre reminded us about the importance of bringing the community together at the Bronx River Community Garden. They also announced that their Second Annual Harvfest will be held on October 21, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Bronx River Community Garden. There will be face painting, carved pumpkins, book giveaway, candied apples, a photo booth, and a scavenger hunt.

Jose A. Padilla Jr.

Mr. Padilla Jr. announced that he is running for election to the New York City Council to represent District 15. He encouraged us to do research on the candidates who will be on the ballot at the general election. Mr. Padilla Jr. also informed us that VoteNYC will be releasing a voter's guide on October 16, 2023. Individuals who are interested in joining Mr. Padilla Jr.'s campaign can call (347) 745-0493.

Walter Bell, representing Keep It Simple and Safe

Mr. Bell informed us about the overdose prevention work at Keep It Simple and Safe as a result of the high rates of overdose in the areas of the Bronx they serve and about their training programs. He also dropped off NARCAN kits and Fentanyl testing strips. Mr. Bell also requested assistance from District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett in coordinating with the Bronx District Managers to have at least one staff member or board members per Community Board to get trained to be a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) or Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC).

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- Ms. Ruiz announced that in partnership with Borough President Gibson the 29th Tour de Bronx will be happening on October 22, 2023. Tour de Bronx will now include a 10-mile family friendly route, a 25-mile route, and they are bringing back the epic 40 mile route. All routes will start at East 161st Street and Grand Concourse and culminate at the breathtaking New York Botanical Gardens. The registered riders will pass through the South Bronx, Wakefield, Riverdale, Orchard Beach, waterfront parks and much more.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Santiago Baena, New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena informed us that the City Council's proposal to create a free, trade-in program for lithium-ion batteries to address e-bikes safety passed. Mr. Baena also informed us that their district office is located at 573 East Fordham Road and constituent services are available Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Flavia Salazar and Brent Schneider, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Salazar and Mr. Schneider announced Senator Rivera will be hosting a 'Trunk of Treat' Halloween event on October 28, 2023. They also informed us that NYLAG is offering housing assistance at their office on November 17, 2023 and November 28, 2023. Individuals who are interested in receiving these services can contact their office at (718) 933-2034 to schedule an appointment.

Christian Cardus, New York Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us about some of the bills that are supported by Senator Sepulveda: Senate Bill S5158 which will establish that an electric scooter operator's safety manual, licensing requirement and insurance requirement for buyers; Senate Bill S5981 which will require all edible cannabis products be packaged in child resistant packaging; and Senate Bill 4329 which authorizes the commissioner of motor vehicles to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states, countries, provinces or territories that issue driver licenses. Mr. Cardus also informed us on the reasoning of Drew Gardens closure. His office is working with the appropriate agencies to ensure the opening of the garden. Mr. Cardus also informed us that NYLAG is providing constituent services at their office.

Raishiel Muniz, United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Muniz informed us that Congress avoided a government shutdown on October 1, 2023, by passing a stopgap spending bill (known as a continuing resolution) that funds federal agencies at last year's levels for 45 days – through November 17, 2023. She also informed us that their office offers housing, social security and immigration assistance to constituents.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Evonne Capers chairperson's report was presented by 2nd Vice-Chairperson Laura James. The reported included the following information:

- Ms. James informed us that a meeting with New York City Council Member Diana Ayala and Bronx Community Boards was organized to discuss the concerns of shelter sighting and oversight. As a result of these concerns, a letter to the Council Member Ayala was drafted in August. The Housing and Land-Use Committee will review the letter and propose a vote in support at their committee meeting this month.
- Ms. James also informed us that the Community Board met with New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz to discuss the proposed rezoning of 439 Devoe Avenue.
- Ms. James also reminded the Board Members to sign Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Code of Conduct.
- Ms. James also informed us that Chairperson Evonne Capers proposed an amendment to Bronx Community Board #6's By-Laws that will limit the amount Board Members can speak and debate during Community Board Meetings.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

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

- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that Board Members have been reviewing and discussing the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025.

- **Mr. Moure-Punnett thanked the Executive Committee for assisting with the hiring process of the Part-Time Community Associate, Sonia Banegas. Ms. Banegas began work on September 28, 2023 and has been assisting with the drafting of meeting minutes and administrative tasks.**
- **Mr. Moure-Punnett also informed us that a listing of committees' memberships and chairs was provided to Board Members. Board Members have been appointed to the committee(s) they selected last year and new Board Members have been appointed to their preferred committees. If Board Members wish to change the committee(s) they have been appointed to, they should notify the district office.**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Peraza reported that the By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee discussed the need for Committee Members to attend the committee meetings for quorum and scheduled their next committee meeting date.

Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker reported to us that the Disciplinary Committee discussed Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct requires board members to provide advance notice before absences of community board or committee meetings.

Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee met with Popular Bank and looks forward to finding ways that community members can take advantage of their financial literacy workshops. The Economic Development Committee also discussed how to engage local merchants and establishments to meet the needs in the district. Ms. Carter also reported that the Economic Development Committee reviewed and discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025.

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

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the concerns of the proposed rezoning of 439 Devoe Avenue with members of Bronx River Garden. They also discussed the underutilized lot behind 1932 Arthur Avenue that's property of New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The lot was handed over the Police Department's School Safety Unit to temporarily park their vehicles and since then the quality has drastically changed.

Maria Latimer, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Latimer reported that the Sanitation Committee wants to work with the community and stakeholders to improve the quality of the streets in the district.

Ms. Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee was presented with the final plan of the Citi Bike Expansion Phase 3 in the district by the New York City Department of Transportation. The

stations throughout the district will have twenty bikes, smaller than other stations in denser areas. The project's installation will begin in November and will be completed by mid-December. The Transportation Committee also discussed the Southern Boulevard between East 182nd Street and Fordham Road Safety Improvement Project that was implemented by the New York City Department of Transportation in 2021 after the Board expressed their concerns with the proposals of the project and issued a letter of objection. The Bronx Borough Office of the New York City Department of Transportation stated that the Transportation Committee will be receiving a response to the letter that was issued by the next committee meeting. Ms. Sanchez also informed us that the New York City Department of Transportation provided them with an update in regard to the Café Building and Kiosk 2 at Fordham Plaza. They project that the café building and kiosks will be occupied by Fall 2024.

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 adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 14, 2023 and September 13, 2023 was made by Ms. Melissa Guzman, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, one abstention, and one opposition.**
- 2. A motion to issue a letter of support for Drew Gardens in support of obtaining a bank account was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Mr. Paul Ramirez, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, one abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 3. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Mayor Eric Adams in support of allocating 1% of the City's budget to the Department of Parks and Recreation was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions.**
- 4. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services regarding the empty lot at the rear of 1932 Arthur Avenue was made by Ms. Melissa Guzman, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, two abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 5. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Pierina Sanchez regarding the lack of in-person services provided by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Housing Ambassador Program was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, one abstention, and zero oppositions.**
- 6. A motion to issue a letter to the School Construction Authority requesting clarification on the status of the development of a school in Lambert Houses was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, one abstention, and zero oppositions.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the October 11, 2023 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

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

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023 SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	LOS DREW GARDENS	LETTER TO MAYOR RE: PARKS BUDGET	LETTER TO DCAS	LETTER TO CM SANCHEZ	LETTER RE: LAMBERT HOUSES SCHOOL	ADJOURNMENT
Clarita Bailon								
John Barczak								
Isaac Bowen	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cornell Brown	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bridget Brantley								
Evonne Capers								
Michael Caraballo								
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sadija Cekovic								
Sadonia Croom								
Margarita Espinosa								
Frank Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia								
Melissa Guzman	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gail Irby	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	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	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Matthew Martinez	Leave of Absense							
Francene Miller								
Angel Munez-Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jessii Parham	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lamont Parker	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	No	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reggie Powell	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samsondeen Raheem								
Paul Ramirez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Renee Reed	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carmen Rivera								
Kristine Rivera								
Yamelith Rivera								
Carol Robinson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons								
Gladys Sotomayor	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Noorjahan Wells								
Monique Williams	Present	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Annette Wright	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Angelina Zervos	Leave of Absense							