



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

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

Environment and Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Margarita Espinosa, Committee Chairperson

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

The Environment and Parks Committee on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at the district office and on Zoom Audio and Video Conference. The following board members were present: Isaac Bowen, Nicole Carter (virtual), Margarita Espinosa, Laura James (virtual), Julissa Lora (virtual), Magdamary Marciano, Jessii Parham (virtual), Carol Robinson, and Gil Simmons (virtual).

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following:

- **Discussion on Quarry Ballfield garden**

The Environment and Parks Committee was informed that Quarry Ballfield received capital funding for a renovation, which included the space across the street from Monterey Houses. The idea to create a community garden and seating area was proposed by Father William Miller, who envisioned a healing space for seniors and patients at the hospital. Father William Miller brought community members together before his passing. A motion to name the garden area at Quarry Ballfield "Father William Miller Corner" to honor his memory was made by Gil Simmons and seconded by Margarita Espinosa. The committee discussed soliciting ideas for possible capital projects in the other surrounding areas of Quarry Ballfield. Recommendations brought to the Environment and Parks Committee were a bird sanctuary and dog run for the undeveloped area of Quarry Ballfield above the garden area.

- **Other Business**

- The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the membership problems and community complaints at Drew Garden. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett will follow up with GreenThumb regarding a tour of community gardens and NYC DOT on the status of Drew Garden. The Environment and Parks Committee will also invite the New York State Department of Transportation to the next meeting for a briefing on the status of Drew Garden and its management.
- The Environment and Parks Committee was informed by Sharman Switzer, a resident of Bronx Community Board #6, who has worked with youth in the district for over 55 years. The Environment and Parks Committee learned that Mapes Ballfield is not being used despite an investment made to renovate the baseball field, which was completed in 2021. A petition with signatures from community members that support converting Mapes Ballfield into a tennis court was submitted to the Environment and Parks Committee for consideration. A motion to write a letter of support for the conversion of Mapes Ballfield into a tennis court and request capital funding from New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz was made by Margarita Espinosa and seconded by Gil Simmons.

- District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the Environment and Parks Committee that the request to build a pool as part of the renovation of Walter Gladwin Park was denied.
- The Environment and Parks Committee discussed plans to visit the community gardens in the district and organize volunteer clean-up events in the near future. The Environment and Parks Committee proposed to begin visiting local community gardens on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Additional information will be provided closer to the walk - through date.