



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-PUNETT
District Manager

Environment and Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Margarita Espinosa, Committee Chairperson

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

The Environment and Parks met on October 9, 2024 via Zoom Audio and Video Conference and in-person at the district office. The following board members were present: Laura James (Virtual), Carol Robinson (Virtual), Nicole Carter (Virtual), Reggie Powell (Virtual), Margarita Espinosa, Angelina Zervos, Gladys Sotomayor, Magdamary Marcano, Renee Reed and Julissa Lora.

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from DSNY on residential trash pick up rules**

A DSNY representative did not attend the meeting. A motion to issue a letter to the Department of Sanitation requesting information on residential containerization rules before it goes into effect on November 2, 2024 and a solution to prevent the theft of residential trashcans was made by Magdamary Marcano, and seconded by Laura James.

- **Discussion on Mapes Ballfield petition**

The committee discussed the petition to convert Mapes Ballfield into a tennis court. Representatives of the Mary Mitchell Center and Mothers on the Move provided context around the history of Mapes Ballfield and decades of advocacy from community members. Before the ballfield was renovated through millions of dollars in capital funding, community members maintained and cleaned the space. A building was donated to provide the land required for Mapes Ballfield. The ballfield was renamed the "Astin Jacobo Field of Dreams" in honor of Jacobo's advocacy on behalf of the Crotona community and investment in the neighborhood. A representative from NYC Parks explained the permitting process for use of the ballfield. Committee members also reviewed the list of field permits that are currently in use, which was provided by NYC Parks. The document indicated permits were active between 4-7 days a week from March to November 2024. Committee members noticed some permits had been requested for unreasonably long hours, which prevented others from accessing the ballfield. The representative from NYC Parks informed the committee that the permits office can investigate and penalize parties who do not use the permits that were granted. NYC Parks indicated that no other sports can be played on the Ballfield because it will ruin the turf. Committee members reviewed the plans for Walter Gladwin Park and found there were no plans for a tennis court.

- **Discussion on Quarry Ballfield "Miller's Corner"**

Gil Simmons is communicating with the widow of Robert Miller regarding the naming of "Miller's Corner". The discussion will be tabled until next month when an update is provided.

- **Motion in support of 9 Dot Energy's application for funding**

The District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed the committee that the owner of 439 Devoe Avenue will be leasing the land to an energy company called Nine Dot Energy, which will use the area to store energy using batteries that will be filled during off-peak hours and sell the energy back into the grid during peak hours. This reduces the need for use of peaker plants, which burn fossil fuels in the city to meet high demand. Local storage builds up local grids to deal with high demand periods. Nine Dot Energy also provided the Board with information on their operations of a similar project next door a school in the Bronx as an example of their community partnerships. The company is applying for tax exemptions and is asking for the board's support. A motion to issue a letter of support for NineDot Energy to receive tax exemptions for the energy project at 439 Devoe Avenue was made by Angelina Zervos, seconded by Gladys Sotomayor, and adopted unanimously.

- **Review of District Needs Statement**

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2026. The committee discussed requesting funding for all parks in the district, creation of dog runs, oversight of contractors who prune trees, extra staffing for DSNY, DSNY trucks that can hold more water for street cleaning, and improved infrastructure for storm drainage. The committee will add a new request for funding to repurpose vacant commercial center.