



**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-PUNETT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6

Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Members Present:

Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Gail Irby, Lazarus Jackson, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole Ndiaye, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Gladys Sotomayor, Porscha Wilson, Annette Wright, and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Clarita Bailon, Isaac Bowen, Cornell Brown, Bridgette Brantley, Evonne Capers, Michael Caraballo, Melissa Guzman, Fousani Hamidou, Julissa Lora, Donald McLachlan, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Marie Servius, and Monique Williams.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Juan Lopez, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Jeffrey Peña, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
Bryan Rodríguez, representing New York State Assembly Member George Alvarez
Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Raishiel Muñoz, representing United States Congressman Member Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The September 18, 2024 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the SBH Health System's Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue, and was called to order at approximately 6:37 PM by Board 1st Vice-Chairperson Maria Garcia.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Parliamentarian Gil Simmons.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who asked to address the community board as part of the meeting's Community Period included:

Victor M. Pichardo Jr., representing SBH Health System

Mr. Pichardo introduced himself as the Vice President of Community and Government Affairs of SBH Health System. He informed attendees of the public programs at SBH Health System including the teaching kitchen, gym, rooftop garden, and food pantry. Mr. Pichardo also announced their Hispanic Heritage Celebration that will take place on October 8 and 9, 2024 from 12 PM to 6 PM at the Health and Wellness Center located at 4507 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457.

Cristian Soriano

Mr. Soriano informed us about the issues associated with the protected bike lanes that were installed along Park Avenue. The issues include, but are not limited to: traffic congestion, forcing emergency vehicles to use the bike lane, fire trucks are not able to drive down Park Avenue, school bus pick-up and drop-off delays and accessibility, and accessibility to residential and commercial drive-ways.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett informed Mr. Soriano and attendees that FDNY has communicated with the Board regarding the turning radius affecting fire trucks. District Manager Moure-Punnett also urged constituents to share the locations where the concrete barriers are limiting access to driveways, which he will then forward to the New York City Department of Transportation for removal.

Jose Lozano

Mr. Lozano also inform us about the issues associated with the protected bike lanes that were installed along Park Avenue.

Julio Casado

Mr. Casado shared concerns with the lack of affordable housing in the neighborhood and high number of shelters in the district. District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett explained that the Board continues to advocate against shelter placements in Bronx Community Board 6, which occurs more frequently than in other districts. District Manager Moure-Punnett informed us that the district office is able to direct constituent complaints pertaining to a specific shelter location to the New York City Department of Homeless Services or the service provider for follow-up on the issue.

Laura James, representing Bronx River Community Garden

Ms. James announced that their Third Annual HarvFest will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 1 PM to 5 PM at the Bronx River Community Garden.

Sharman Switzer, Justice for Families

Ms. Switzer informed us that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation responded to their petition regarding the conversion of Mapes Ballfield to a tennis court. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation stated that Mapes Ballfield was recently renovated and the request for a tennis court is not feasible due to budgetary constraints. Ms. Switzer was advised to contact local elected officials and ask for the allocation of capital funding to convert Mapes Ballfield into a tennis court.

Derek Milan, representing Tremont Library

Mr. Milan informed us about the programs for teens, kids, and adults that are available at the Tremont Library. He also announced that the Tremont Library will be having a Bi-Lingual Writing Workshop on October 7, 2024 from 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM.

Sharon Fortis, Ariva

Ms. Fortis informed the us that Ariva provides financial advice and assistance for small business owners, as well as help with business planning for future entrepreneurs.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Deputy Director of Community Boards, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz informed us that Borough President Gibson's Community Board Report for the month of September was included in our meeting packet and can be read at our leisure.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Juan Lopez, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Lopez informed us that their office is offerings immigration services in partnership with CUNY CitizenshipNOW every Tuesday at their district office located at 573 East Fordham Road, Bronx, New York. 10458. If you are interested in receiving services, you can schedule an appointment by calling (718) 842-8100. He also informed us that their office will be distributing \$20.00 in Health Bucks to residents each month.

Jeremy Peña, representing Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

Mr. Peña announced that Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark will be hosting her 7th Annual Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic event on Saturday, September 26, 2024.

Bryan Rodriguez, representing New York State Assemblymember George Alvarez

Mr. Rodriguez informed us that their office assists constituents with housing, social security, Medicaid, and Medicare related services. Their district office can be contacted by telephone at (718) 933-2204 and is located at 2623 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York 10458. Assemblymember Alvarez is reachable by email at alvarezg@nyassembly.com.

Christian Cardus, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Cardus informed us of legislative updates and services offered at their office. He informed us that Senator Sepulveda sponsored a bill to extend discounted water charges for hospitals and charities in New York City. Mr. Cardus also informed us that their office assist individuals with housing related issues. Individuals can contact their office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or in person by visiting 975 Kelly Street, Suite 203, Bronx, New York 10459, Monday through Thursday, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. He also announced that Senator Sepulveda hosted a job resource fair with over ten organizations and their first annual health and wellness fair with twelve organizations. Senator Sepulveda also assisted over 150 families through the office's food pantry.

Raishiel Muñiz, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Muñiz reported that Congressman Torres gave away over 500 book bags during the back to school season. She also informed us that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported that Carfentanil and Medetomidine has been identified in multiple recent samples sold as opioids in new York City. In response to these findings, Congressman Torres wrote to both the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) seeking clarity and answers. She also informed us that on August 18 Congress Member Ritchie Torres called for the New York State Power Authority to launch an investigation into Con Edison pricing after data revealed that residents in the Bronx pay double the rate that Brooklyn residents pay to National Grid. The office will intake constituent complaints about ConEdison, while next steps for consumers seeking refunds is pending. Ms. Muñiz also informed us that Congressman Torres released an investigative report on last month's national public data breach and shared the following website to check if an individual's data has been leaked: npd.pentester.com.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chairperson Evonne Capers was not present at the meeting. Therefore, the Chairperson's Report was reported by Ms. Maria Garcia, 1st Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Maria Garcia's Board Chairperson's report included the following information:

- Ms. Garcia informed us that the committee membership process is almost finalized. Board Members are able to request to change their committee membership by using the Committee Membership Change Request Sheet that was included in the meeting packet.
- Ms. Garcia informed us about the proposed by-laws amendment regarding the composition of the Executive Committee. The proposed by-laws amendment will be included in the list of motions at the October Community Board Meeting.
- Ms. Garcia also announced that Nominating Committee has been appointed for the nominations of Committee Chairpersons.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER

Mr. Moure-Punnett's District Manager's report included the following information:

- Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation reported that there are two little leagues that use Mapes Ballfield. He is waiting for additional data on the field's use from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation .
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also mentioned that he has not received further information from the New York City Department of Transportation regarding the East Tremont Busway. The Community Board will be conducting a separate survey to determine the public's opinion of the proposal.
- Mr. Moure-Punnett also mentioned that he will be coordinating with Mr. Walter Bell, Executive Director of K.I.S.S., to determine when the CARC training will begin.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Magdamary Marcano informed us that the Treasurer's Report for the month of September was included in the meeting packet. The report included expenses from the months of July through September. She also reported that there are combined Fiscal Year 24 expenses that has been charged to Fiscal Year 25 temporarily. Those Fiscal Year 24 expenses listed will be reflected in the last Fiscal Year 24 report that will be provided once the expenses have been adjusted to the proper fiscal year. She asked individuals to review the report at their leisure.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Parker reported that the Disciplinary Committee discussed making a recommendation to the Board Chairperson regarding Board Members who miss more than five (5) committee meetings. He also encouraged Board Members to notify the district office if they will not be attending a meeting. Mr. Parker also informed us that a motion regarding Bridgette Brantley's membership was listed.

Ms. Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee discussed that the New York City Department of Transportation intends to issue a significant Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development, operation, and maintenance of a food, beverage, and/or merchandise concession at the Café Building and Kiosk 2 at Fordham Plaza located at Fordham Road, Third Avenue and East 189th Street. She also reported that the Economic Development Committee was informed that the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corp. (NIDC) has received from the New York City Department of Small Business Services for merchant organizing on East Tremont Avenue. The organization has received the grant from the New York City Department of Small Business Services in the past and demonstrated it is capable of successfully launching merchant associations.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Environment and Parks Committee was informed that the request to build a pool as part of the renovation of Walter Gladwin Park was denied. She also reported that 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. Ms. Espinosa also reported that a motion to

name the garden area at Quarry Ballfield “Father William Miller Corner” to honor his memory was adopted at their Environment and Parks Committee meeting.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett on behalf of Ms. Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Mr. Moure-Punnett reported that the Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting on the Second Thursday of each month going forward.

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

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee is working with the district office to assist Lambert Houses’ tenants and Aquinas Housing’s tenants around legal advocacy and tenant leadership.

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett on behalf of Ms. Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Mr. Moure-Punnett informed us that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee meeting minutes were included in the meeting packet and can be reviewed at our leisure.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty (20) members.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6’s Community Board and Committee Meetings of June, July, August, and September 2024 was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*
2. A motion to adopt the Bronx Community Board #6’s calendar for 2024-2025 was made by Ms. Nicole Carter, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*
3. A motion to sponsor ten students for three semesters of art programming at the Bronx River Art Center at a cost of \$2,700 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*
 - 3a. An amendment to the motion to sponsor ten students for three semesters of art programming at the Bronx River Art Center at a cost of \$2,700 with the condition that a new proposal be resubmitted to the Board by Wednesday, September 25, 2024, which

must include the cost breakdown per student and agreement to showcase student artwork at end-of-semester public exhibits was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*

4. A motion to issue a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz asking him to consider replacing the Mapes Ballfield with a tennis court was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez.

4a. A motion to table the issuance of a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz asking him to consider replacing the Mapes Ballfield with a tennis court was made by Ms. Renee Reed seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*

5. A motion to name the new seating area in Quarry Ballfield as “Mr. Miller’s Corner” was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Lisa Sanchez.

5a. A motion to table the naming of the new seating area in Quarry Ballfield as “Mr. Miller’s Corner” was made by Mr. Frank Franz, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*

6. A motion to remove Brigitte Brantley for failure to comply with Bronx Community Board #6’s By-Laws regarding attendance was made by Ms. Magdamary Marcano, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia, and adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, zero abstentions, and zero oppositions. *(Please note that Board Member, Gil Simmons, was not present during the adoption of motions.)*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the September 18, 2024 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Sonia Banegas
Community Associate

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

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