



**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, January 15, 2025

The Environment and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Economic Development Committee Meeting: Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Laura James (Virtual), Nicole N'Diaye (Virtual), Reneé Reed, Carol Robinson, Gil Simmons (virtual), Porscha Wilson (Virtual), and Angelina Zervos, Magdamary Marcano (virtual).

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following:

- **Discussion with Garden of Happiness on Community Gardening**

Ms. Karla Cabrera-Carrera is the Garden Manager at Garden of Happiness. Garden of Happiness is located on Prospect Avenue between East 181st Street and East 182nd Street. Ms. Cabrera-Carrera informed the Environment and Parks Committee that Garden of Happiness' mission is to preserve the community's culture through gardening, education and community service. The garden became a park in 1988 under the leadership of Ms. Karen Washington. Ms. Cabrera-Carrera also informed the Environment and Parks Committee that the garden has 29 paid members, 40 non-paid members and has a waiting list of 11 individuals. Garden of Happiness is open ten hours of week during the months of April through October. Garden of Happiness receives support from the New York Botanical Garden's Bronx Green-Up, GreenThumb, and Council Member Oswald Feliz and Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center. Ms. Cabrera-Carrera relayed that she had worked with District Manager Rafael Moure to address illegal dumping that occurs in front of the garden.

- **Drafting of the Environment and Parks Committee's committee description**

The Environment and Parks Committee drafted their a description that outlines the committee's functions to preserve the parks, playgrounds, gardens, and other open spaces in Bronx Community Board 6. A motion to adopt the Environment and Parks Committee Description was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Renee Reed.