



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, MPA
District Manager

Environment and Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The Environment and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Environment and Parks Committee Meeting: Evonne Capers (Virtual), Nicole Carter (Virtual), Laura James (Virtual), Magdamary Marcano (Virtual), Reggie Powell (Virtual), Margarita Espinosa, Renee Reed, Nicole N'diaye, Carol Robinson, and Angelina Zervos.

The Sanitation Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from Parks Department on Garden of Youth capital project**

The Parks Department presented a plan to replace the existing chain link fence around a community garden with a steel picket fence, repave the sidewalk, replace the curb, and improve pedestrian ramps. The proposed fence would be seven feet tall, but Park is open to feedback on the height and location. The Parks Department is also seeking input on the location of a new water hydrant and the species of tree to plant in an empty tree pit. Board members encouraged Parks to consult with gardeners on these questions.

Lot 32, adjacent to the Garden of Youth, was included in the ULURP application despite uncertainty about its ownership after auction. Committee members expressed confusion about Parks' role in preventing a lien sale for the lot. Although the city has acquisition approval for Lot 32, it has yet to negotiate a purchase. The new owner's plans for the lot, including potential construction, raise concerns about preserving green space and the impact on the Garden of Youth.

The city's decision to lien sale Lot 32 allowed a private buyer to purchase it, potentially threatening the adjacent community garden. The buyer's actions, including removing trees and garden beds, have raised concerns about the garden's future and the safety of its users. Despite efforts to protect the garden, and interest in purchase from Council Member Oswald Feliz, the situation remains uncertain.

The Garden of Youth raised \$11,000 to cover an outstanding tax debt for Lot 33 from 1992. The garden is waiting on the Comptroller's approval to transfer Lot 33 to the city for \$1.00. The committee was informed that the private developer who purchased Lot 32 is trespassing on Lot 33. The Garden of Youth is also in support of the city acquiring Lot 32 through eminent domain acquisition.

A motion to issue a letter to the LLC that purchased Lot 32 to advise them that they are trespassing and inquire into their intentions of selling the lot was made by Renee Reed and seconded by Margarita Espinosa.

- **Presentation from River Garden on programming**

A series of 11 gardening workshops were held in the Bronx, attracting at least 286 participants, 90% of whom were from the community. The workshops covered various topics such as soil testing, watering methods, composting, and seed planting, and included culturally relevant seed distributions and collaborations with local organizations. The success of the workshops, despite weather challenges, highlights the community's interest in gardening and sustainable practices.

