



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
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EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT, MPA
District Manager

Environment and Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

The Environment and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 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), Sofia Delgado (Virtual), Margarita Espinosa, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole Ndiaye (Virtual), Jessii Parham (Virtual), Reggie Powell, Renee Reed, Carol Robinson, and Angelina Zervos.

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from River Garden on Wellness in West Farms Workshops**

Bronx River Community Garden is seeking funding for a set of interconnected, community-centered programs designed to support the health, resilience, and self-sufficiency of West Farms residents. The programs will be free and open to all residents, ages 12 and up. Registration will be capped at 24 participants per session.

The “Wellness in West Farms” program is a 10-session, community-centered wellness workshop series designed to support physical health, emotional resilience, and collective well-being through movement, education, and rest. Hosted at the Bronx River Community Garden, the program offers a consistent, welcoming space where neighbors can care for their bodies, share knowledge, and build community in a natural setting. Each weekly gathering integrates gentle movement, practical health discussion, and restorative practices into a single, cohesive experience.

The “Wellness in West Farms” program will take place on Sundays, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The program will run from April 26th to June 28th. On select weeks, sessions will feature sound bath meditation, Tai Chi, and gentle movement yoga. Five sessions will include guided discussion and practical teaching focused on helping participants take an active role in their health. Topics emphasize accessible, preventative, and self-directed strategies, including natural and alternative approaches to wellness, herbal and homeopathic remedies, lifestyle practices that support long-term health, tools for self-advocacy within healthcare systems, and low-cost and practical health resources community members can use at home.

The “BRCG Gardening 101” program will take place from April 11th to May 9th over the course of 5 Saturdays, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. This beginner gardening series supports Bronx River Community Garden’s mission by reducing barriers to entry for new gardeners, strengthening long-term participation and retention, and building practical skills that promote food literacy and Stewardship. By equipping participants with foundational knowledge and hands-on experience, this program helps ensure the continued vitality and sustainability of the garden and its members.

The committee suggested becoming an SYEP worksite so youth can be paid to help maintain the garden. The District Manager will share information about becoming a subcontract site under Phipps' SYEP contract.

A motion to fund the Bronx River Garden programs in the amount of \$2,800.00 was made by Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Angelina Zervos and adopted unanimously.

- **Discussion on Vidalia Park**

The committee met with Roseanne Andrade to discuss compliance issues surrounding Vidalia Park. In 2018, Vidalia Park was approved as a "greeter garden" by the Bronx Horticulture Manager of the Parks Department at the corner of Vyse Avenue and East 180th Street. An RFP was issued for volunteers to plant the approved perennials, which was donated by the city-wide nursery. The greeter garden offers community stewardship opportunities without the membership requirements of community gardens. It serves as critical habitat for pollinators, including 8 species of butterflies, and has been maintained by Roseanne since its planting. In 2025, Rosanne contacted the Parks Department because the perennials were cut and mowed down, and a third of the bricks used as a stone edge and thermal vent for the butterflies were removed. She was then informed that the garden is operated illegally by the Parks Department.

The District Manager will write to the Bronx Borough Commissioner of the Parks Department to clarify the status of the RFP, and confirm Roseanne's right to access and maintain the area for the spring season.

- **Other Business**

- **Discussion on Climate Change Resource Fair**

Angelina Zervos shared updates about the Climate Change Resource Fair that will be hosted in partnership with New York Sea Grant Foundation to celebrate Earth Day. The proposed date for the event is Sunday, April 26th. Environmental organizations and local community gardens would be invited to table. Other potential partners to invite include the Bronx is Blooming, the Bronx River Alliance, the Bronx Zoo, and the Bronx Botanical Garden. New York Sea Grant Foundation can set up a mobile classroom and facilitate a workshop, however, it is possible that another organization will also present. The committee discussed obtaining a park permit to host the event at Walter Gladwin Park.

The committee discussed distributing the climate resource fair event flyers at the public forum hosted by the Mayor's Office for Climate Justice on March 3rd at BRAC, and referring to the community's feedback at the forum to inform the topic selection for the climate resource fair workshops. The committee discussed plans for a climate change resource fair.

- **36th Happy Land Social Club Fire Memorial Event**

The 36th Happy Land Social Club Fire Memorial Event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th. The Full Board Meeting will be rescheduled to March 18th to accommodate the memorial event.

- **Clean up at El Batey De Doña Provi Garden**

On March 28th, El Batey De Doña Provi Garden will host a community clean up event.

- **Discussion on the Committee Vice-Chairperson Role**

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the need to appoint a Vice Chairperson in light of a potential bylaw amendment that would require committee chairs to attend in person when meetings are held in person. In that context, members suggested that each committee elect a Vice

Chair to serve in the Chair's absence when necessary. Members emphasized the importance of having a designated Vice Chair to assist with meeting facilitation, coordination of agenda items, and ensuring continuity of leadership.

A motion to open the election for Vice Chairpersons was made by Margarita Espinosa, and seconded by Renee Reed. Angelina Zervos was elected Vice Chairperson of the Environment and Parks Committee.

