



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-PUNNETT
District Manager

Bronx Community Board 6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Members Present:

Cornell Brown, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Sofia Delgado, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Fousani Hamidou, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez, Magdamary Marcano, Nicole N'diaye, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Jessii Parham, Lamont Parker, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Katrina Rawlins, Renee Reed, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Carol Robinson, Hoshi Salcedo, Lisa Sanchez, Gladys Sotomayor, Porscha Wilson, Annette Wright and Angelina Zervos.

Members Absent:

Brigette Brantley, Ashonda Culcleasure, Shantavia Inabinet, and Maria Latimer.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Kenny Agosto, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Jack Shaevitz, representing New York State Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia
Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 25, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was held on Zoom Video Communications and was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by 2nd Vice Chairperson Maria Garcia.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who addressed the Community Board during the meeting's Community Period were:

Marcello Villagran, representing NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln

Mr. Villagran shared announcements about upcoming community events at the Lincoln Hospital. He invited the public to attend a Black History Month celebration taking place at the hospital from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, featuring a jazz performance. He also announced an upcoming celebration of Dominican Republic Independence Day scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the hospital. Community members were encouraged to attend and participate in the cultural celebration, and additional information was shared in the meeting chat for those interested in learning more.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson’s report was presented by her Community Liaison, Kenny Agosto.

Mr. Agosto announced several upcoming events. He first shared that the Borough President’s LGBTQIA Task Force will host the “Love is Love” Valentine’s Day Dance on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Taíno Mexican Restaurant, located at 600 Bergen Avenue. He also noted that the Dominican Heritage Month celebration, which was previously postponed due to weather conditions, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Grand Slam Banquet Hall, located at 478 East Tremont Avenue. In addition, Mr. Agosto announced that a Homeowners Resource Fair will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Rotunda at Bronx Borough Hall, located at 851 Grand Concourse. Other upcoming events include the Bronx Interfaith Unity event, “Breaking Bread Together,” on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM at Bronx Borough Hall; a Higher Education/College Fair on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Hostos Community College; and the Borough President’s Cup basketball tournament for Bronx residents and students on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at P.S. 70, located at 1691 Weeks Avenue. For additional information, Mr. Agosto can be contacted at (347) 213-0375.

V. ELECTED OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

Santiago Baena, representing New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz

Mr. Baena provided updates on the Council Member’s recent work and available constituent services. As the new Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Public Safety, Council Member Feliz recently led an oversight hearing reviewing the City’s Code Blue response following a period of severe winter weather earlier this year, during which approximately 20 New Yorkers died from cold exposure. The hearing included participation from agencies such as the New York City Police Department, New York City Department of Homeless Services, and New York City Emergency Management to review what worked, identify gaps, and discuss improvements to better protect residents during extreme weather events. Mr. Baena also noted that their office continues to provide constituent services, including assistance with housing issues, immigration matters through an in-office immigration attorney, and free tax preparation services available by appointment.

Jasmine Torreblanca, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Torreblanca shared several updates on upcoming events and initiatives. She announced that their office will host an upcoming SCRIE assistance event in collaboration with the New York City Department of Finance to help constituents apply for or renew their Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) benefits, noting that limited appointment slots remain available and encouraging residents who may benefit to contact the office. She also highlighted a forthcoming free tax preparation event being organized in partnership with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation. Finally, she provided a brief update on

the AOP bill, noting that it has advanced past committee and that additional updates will be shared as the legislation progresses. She also thanked community partners for sharing data and assisting with communication with the local precinct.

Jack Shaevitz, representing New York State Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia

Mr. Shaevitz provided updates on current legislative priorities and upcoming community events. He noted that the Assembly and Senate are currently engaged in state budget negotiations and highlighted the proposed Housing Access Preservation Initiative, a \$250 million fund intended to support nonprofits and community development corporations in preserving affordable housing across New York State, including New York City. The initiative would help finance capital repairs and provide operational support to maintain existing affordable housing. He also announced an upcoming free tax preparation event in partnership with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2026 near their district office at 31 Clinton Place, encouraging residents to contact the office to register. Additionally, he shared that the office plans to host a series of community food distributions beginning toward the end of next month, with further details and flyers to be shared soon.

Tamar Rothstein, representing United States Congressman Ritchie Torres

Ms. Rothstein provided an update on the Congressman's recent work addressing both district priorities and federal issues impacting Bronx residents. Over the past month, he hosted House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries for a Black History Month discussion focused on lowering costs for working families, protecting democracy, and delivering results for local communities. She also participated in the 2026 Legislative Forum at Lincoln Hospital, where healthcare leaders discussed challenges facing the public health system and the need for continued federal support. In Washington, Congressman Torres secured more than \$18 million in FY2026 Community Project Funding for initiatives identified by Bronx residents. These investments include climate and environmental restoration, youth violence prevention and programming, public safety technology, broadband access for low-income households, capital repairs and fire safety upgrades at NYCHA developments, affordable housing infrastructure, renovations at Hostos Community College, transportation support for senior centers, park and playground improvements, flood mitigation, and expanded STEM learning opportunities. She informed us that Congressman Torres is also advocating against federal policies that limit opportunity, including restrictions on graduate student lending. He has introduced legislation to strengthen congressional oversight of Army Corps projects related to flood control and community resiliency. His office remains available to assist constituents with federal agencies, benefits, housing, immigration matters, and other concerns.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Capers reported that a proposed bylaw amendment has been submitted requiring committee chairs to attend the meetings of the committees they chair in person. The proposal was included in the meeting packet and will be discussed and voted on by the Board this month. If adopted, each committee will be required to have either the chair or vice chair present in person at every meeting; the Chairperson also acknowledged committees that recently elected vice chairs.

Ms. Capers also announced that the Board is currently accepting applications for the 2026 New York Yankees Youth Leadership Award. Applications will be reviewed by the Youth and Education Committee in March, with selected candidates submitted to the New York Yankees in April.

Ms. Capers also reminded Board Members that the application period for Bronx Community Board membership is now open through the Bronx Borough President's Office website, and a list of members

whose terms expire this year was shared.

Lastly, it was announced that the March Board meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to avoid a conflict with the memorial mass commemorating the Happy Land Social Club Fire.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett provided follow-up on the Board's prior discussion regarding the Young Democratic Socialists of America club at Fordham University. The University claimed confusion about whether the club was seeking recognition, but students now report the university has restarted the recognition process.

District Manager Moure-Punnett also addressed concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the proposal to establish a program evaluation process for the Community Board. He clarified the timeline of Dr. James-Wilson's involvement with the Youth and Education Committee and noted that the proposal follows the Board's bylaws and city procurement rules, which do not require an RFP for expenditures under \$20,000. He added that Dr. James-Wilson recently presented to the Executive Committee and indicated that her proposed scope of work is proprietary and differs from alternative approaches.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Magdamary Marcano reported on the Board's financial activity for the month. Excluding Personal Services, the Board incurred expenses totaling \$2,919.56. When including Personal Services costs of \$19,072.79, total monthly expenditures amounted to \$21,992.35. To date, the Board has expended \$157,339.42, leaving a remaining balance of \$142,377.67 for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Ms. Marcano also reported that several remaining expenses related to the Christmas Holiday Party were processed this month, including payments for temporary services such as the DJ and face painter. Any additional expenses associated with the event are expected to be processed next month.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

District Manger Rafael Moure-Punnett, on behalf of Lamont Parker, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson (Absent)

District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett requested that board members review, at their convenience, the letters issued by the Disciplinary Committee included in the meeting packet.

Nicole Carter, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Carter reported that the Economic Development Committee received a presentation from the Bronx Mediation Center outlining its mediation and restorative justice services, including support for matters such as divorce, custody, landlord-tenant disputes, and small claims. The committee also discussed appointing a Vice Chairperson to support meeting facilitation and ensure continuity of leadership in light of a potential bylaw amendment. A motion was made and seconded to open the election for Vice Chairperson; however, a subsequent motion to table the election was made and seconded, and the matter was tabled.

Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson

Ms. Espinosa reported that the Parks and Environment Committee received a presentation from the Bronx River Community Garden regarding proposed “Wellness in West Farms” and “Gardening 101” programs aimed at supporting community health, education, and engagement. The committee discussed the potential for the garden to serve as a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) worksite and voted unanimously to allocate \$2,800 to support the programs. The committee also discussed issues regarding the status and maintenance of the Vidalia Park greeter garden; the District Manager will contact the Bronx Borough Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to seek clarification. Additional updates included planning for a Climate Change Resource Fair in recognition of Earth Day, notice of upcoming community events, and discussion of appointing a committee Vice Chairperson. Board Member Angelina Zervos was elected to serve as Vice Chairperson.

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Health and Human Services Committee received a presentation from the Bronx River Community Garden regarding the proposed “Wellness in West Farms” workshop series and “Gardening 101” program, aimed at promoting community health, wellness education, and gardening skills. The committee discussed potential partnerships with local health organizations and strategies to promote the programs. The committee also discussed plans for a Climate Change Resource Fair and outreach to community partners for participation and support. Additionally, Hoshi Salcedo was elected Vice Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Frank Franz, Housing and Land-Use Committee Chairperson

Mr. Franz reported that the Housing and Land-Use Committee discussed the New York City Department of City Planning’s Universal Affordability Preference (UAP) under the City of Yes zoning changes, which allows property owners to build up to 20% additional housing with affordable units at 60% of Area Median Income. The committee voted to draft a letter to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development seeking clarification on unit size standards and guidance on how the Community Board can be informed about programs associated with such developments; the letter will be presented to the full Board for consideration. The committee also discussed appointing a Vice Chairperson to assist with meeting facilitation and ensure continuity of leadership, with further discussion to take place at a future meeting.

Carmen Rivera, Public Safety and Licensing Committee Chairperson

Ms. Rivera reported that the Public Safety and Licensing Committee reviewed several liquor license applications. The committee voted to issue favorable recommendations to the New York State Liquor Authority for Majestic Restaurant Inc. and for Blue 13 Restaurant and Lounge, the latter with stipulations regarding security presence and operating hours. The committee also reviewed the renewal application for Tina Bar and Restaurant Corp. Since the applicant did not attend the meeting, the committee will request that the New York State Liquor Authority withhold the application pending a meeting with the Committee. The committee also received a fire safety presentation from the New York City Fire Department highlighting common causes of residential fires and the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire escape planning, and safe use of electrical devices. Additional updates included the rescheduling of the 48th Precinct Community Council meeting and the appointment of Angel Nunez-Garcia as Vice Chairperson of the Public Safety and Licensing Committee.

Carol Robinson, Sanitation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Robinson reported that the Sanitation Committee discussed ongoing complaints regarding litter and dog waste along Boston Road between East 178th Street and East 179th Street. District Manager Rafael

Moure-Punnett noted efforts to contact the property owner regarding sidewalk cleanliness and explained that unresolved issues may be referred to the Department of Sanitation for enforcement. The committee also discussed the importance of holding pet owners accountable for properly disposing of dog waste. Additionally, Margarita Espinosa was elected Vice Chairperson of the Sanitation Committee.

Lisa Sanchez, Transportation Committee Chairperson

Ms. Sanchez reported that the Transportation Committee addressed concerns regarding snow removal in the district following the January 25–26, 2026 winter storm, noting hazardous conditions on streets and sidewalks, blocked bus lanes, and underutilization of snow-melting resources. The committee expressed interest in collaborating with the Sanitation Committee to improve snow removal and unanimously adopted a motion to send a letter to New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz regarding winter weather operations and strategies to mitigate hazards. Additionally, Jessii was elected Vice Chairperson of the Transportation Committee.

Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

Ms. James reported that the Youth and Education Committee received a presentation regarding an Open Streets application for PS 59 from representatives of Street Lab, Bronx Health REACH, and Equity Design, outlining efforts to expand wellness programming and expand access to public space for youth. The committee voted to recommend that the full Board issue a letter of support for PS 59’s planned spring pilot program. Members also discussed plans for a future “Bridging the Gap” community health initiative connecting local schools with a nearby hospital. Additionally, the committee discussed appointing a Vice Chairperson to assist with meeting facilitation and ensure continuity of leadership. Board Member Gladys Sotomayor agreed to serve in this role, and the committee will vote on the appointment at its next meeting.

X. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of quorum with the presence of twenty-eight (28) members.

XI. ADOPTIONS OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board 6’s January 2026 Community Board and February 2026 Committee Meetings was made by Ms. Renee Reed, seconded by Mr. Cornell Brown, and adopted by a vote of twenty-eight in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to authorize the initiation of the Best Practices of Out-of-School Programs Evaluation Project in partnership with Catalyst Research and Development, with an allocation of \$5,500 for Fiscal Year 2026 and \$1,500 for Fiscal Year 2027, was adopted by a vote of nineteen in favor, four opposed, and six abstentions. *(Please note that Board Member Lamont Parker, who was marked absent during the roll call attendance and motions 1 and 2A, was present for this motion.)*
 - 2A. A motion to amend the motion authorizing the initiation of the Best Practices of Out-of-School Programs Evaluation Project, in partnership with Catalyst Research and Development, to allocate \$5,500 for Fiscal Year 2026, including \$1,500 in Fiscal Year 2027, was adopted by a vote of eighteen in favor, three opposed, seven abstentions.
3. A motion to issue a letter of support endorsing PS 59’s Open Street application with the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms.

Magdamary Marcano, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero opposed, and two abstentions.

4. A motion to issue a letter to the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Office of Inclusionary Housing, requesting clarification on HPD's unit size standards and its expectations regarding developers' utilization of New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) programs was made by Mr. Reggie Powell, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
5. A motion to issue a letter to Council Member Oswald Feliz regarding snow removal operations and related public safety concerns was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.
6. A motion to support Bronx River Garden's Wellness in West Farms initiative with an allocation of \$2,800 to fund a series of 10 workshops was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Nicole Carter, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero opposed, and two abstentions.
7. A motion to issue a letter of recommendation in support of the Bronx River Art Center's programs was made by Ms. Laura James, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and adopted by a vote of twenty-seven in favor, zero opposed, and two abstentions.
8. A motion to amend Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws to read as follows:

**“ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES**

Sec. 3 – The Chairperson of each standing committee shall preside at committee meetings and at public hearings conducted by the committee and shall file all committee reports with the Board. A committee chairperson and/or vice chairperson must preside over a meeting at the in-person location of said meeting.”

was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.

8A. A motion to amend the motion to amend Bronx Community Board 6's By-Laws to read as follows:

**“ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES**

Sec. 3 – The Chairperson of each standing committee shall preside at committee meetings and at public hearings conducted by the committee and shall file all committee reports with the Board. A committee chairperson must preside over a meeting at the in-person location of said meeting.” to add the words “and/or vice chairperson” after “chairperson”

was made by Ms. Carmen Rivera, seconded by Ms. Evonne Capers, and adopted by a vote of twenty-nine in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to address, the February 25, 2026, meeting of Bronx Community Board 6 was adjourned at approximately 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Coordinator

Rafael Moure-Punnett
District Manager

