



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**  
**1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**  
Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: BX06@cb.nyc.gov Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6  
*Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President*  
*Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member*

EVONNE CAPERS  
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT, MPA  
District Manager

**Environment and Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Margarita Espinosa, Environment and Parks Committee Chairperson  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

The Environment and Parks Committee met on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Environment and Parks Committee Meeting: Nicole Carter, Margarita Espinosa, Shantavia Inabinet, Laura James (Virtual), Magdamary Marcano, Reggie Powell, Renee Reed, Kristine Rivera (Virtual), and Carol Robinson.

The Environment and Parks Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation on the Garden of Youth**

The Parks Department provided an update on the acquisition of the two lots for the Garden of Youth. One of the lots, Lot 33, is being purchased from the nonprofit Crotona Community Coalition and received ULURP approval. The Parks Department is nearing a closing date for Lot 33, after which a capital project will begin to install internal water access, reconstruct the sidewalk, and add a new fence.

Negotiations are ongoing for the smaller adjacent lot, Lot 32, which is owned by a private developer. The Parks Department has applied for approval from the Deputy Mayor to acquire the property. Following the Deputy Mayor's approval, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services will reach out to the owner with an offer to buy the lot. Based on the most recent conversation with the owner, there are no immediate plans to build on the lot. The Parks Department noted that Council Member Feliz has been supportive during the process, including by allotting funds for the purchase.

- **Update on the Walter Gladwin Park Recreation Center**

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is currently in the design phase, with construction expected to begin as soon as mid-July. Since the contractor will be on-site, the project will require relocating the Mary Mitchell farmer's market. DDC and the Parks Department will coordinate with the Mary Mitchell Family Center if their farmer's market must be reassigned to a new location to allow for the rock excavation.

- **Discussion on 5K Run/Walk for Diabetes Awareness**

Planning is underway for a 5K event to promote diabetes awareness. The Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson is coordinating with various health organizations and local schools for participation and tabling. The event has been posted on social media and running clubs were

invited. The following parties have been confirmed so far: FDNY, Urban Health Plan, NYPL, and VIP. The district office staff were asked to tape up flyers and distribute flyers at buildings. NIDC was present at the meeting and asked to contact Frank's Sporting Goods, Popular Bank, and Foot Lock for some form of sponsorship.

The new anticipated budget is \$2,100.00, no longer \$1,800.00. The committee established that a second vote to clarify the fiscal year for funding is not needed.

- **Discussion on Senior Luncheon at Drews Gardens**

Due to heat concerns in July and lack of funds in the budget, the planned senior luncheon has been tentatively moved to September and will likely be held at Drew Gardens. The luncheon will coincide with Grandparents Day, which is also celebrated in September. The extra time for planning will allow the office to contact senior centers in the area and allow them to coordinate transportation to the event.

- **Other business**

- **Park Maintenance and Security**

Concerns were raised regarding missing locks at the Happy Land Memorial and the unauthorized opening of the Mohegan Triangle at night, which has led to issues with litter and safety. Park Department staff will be visiting the site to confirm and will report back to the committee on any actions taken.

- **Personnel Change**

Rakeen Taylor from the Parks Department announced his departure from the role in approximately three weeks. He thanked the Board for their collaboration and informed the committee that Shirley Echevarria will cover on his behalf.

- **Garden walk-through**

The committee will visit community gardens in mid-June and the beginning of July, when gardens are most active. The district manager will schedule visits with the garden coordinators to ensure they are present to open the gates for the committee members to tour the garden.



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**Economic Development, Environment and Parks, and Sanitation Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

Environment and Parks Committee		
Board Members	Signature	Virtual Attendance
Nicole Carter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Margarita Espinosa		<input type="checkbox"/>
Renee Reed		<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Robinson		<input type="checkbox"/>
Angelina Zervos		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanitation Committee		
Board Members	Signature	Virtual Attendance
Nicole Carter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Margarita Espinosa		<input type="checkbox"/>
Renee Reed		<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Robinson		<input type="checkbox"/>
Angelina Zervos		<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Committee		
Board Members	Signature	Virtual Attendance
Nicole Carter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Margrita Espinosa		<input type="checkbox"/>
Shantavia Inabinet		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nicole Ndiaye		<input type="checkbox"/>
Reggie Powell		<input type="checkbox"/>
Renee Reed		<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Robinson		<input type="checkbox"/>
Angelina Zervos		<input type="checkbox"/>

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE   
 LARA JAMES  
 KRISTINE RIVERA