



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Members present:

Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Glenda Bond, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Kia Ferguson, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Jerry Jackson, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latime, Octavia Lewis, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Victoria Pamias, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley, and Michael Yu

Members absent:

Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Irene Borgen, Diana Diaz, Octavia Lewis, Floretta O'Brien, Wendy Rodriguez

Elected officials representatives present:

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Bharati Kemraj, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Israel Sanchez, representing City Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera
Evangalina Medellin, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The October 11, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the St. Joseph's School, which is located at 1946 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:38 p.m. by 1st Vice-Chairperson Sara Nunez-Mejia.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by 1st Vice-Chairperson Sara Nunez-Mejia.

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,
City Council Member, 15th Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca,
City Council Member, 17th Council District*

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III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

Individuals who asked to address the community board as part of the meeting's Community Period included:

Mr. Christopher Collazo

Mr. Collazo expressed concern about the increase of violence towards LGBTQ community members and the lack of NYPD cultural sensitivity in response to this violence. He reported that he has been denied proper police investigation after experiencing assaults based on his sexuality.

Ms. Daisy Rodriguez, representing Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Ms. Rodriguez introduced herself as the new Director of Government and Community Affairs at Wildlife Conservation Society.

Christina Mapoy, representing AHRCNYC

Ms. Mapoy informed the community about an out of school Youth Training Program for youth aged 18 through 24 that either have a disability or come from a low-income family. The program is funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development and consists of four cycles each year. There is a stipend for participants that covers transportation.

Ms. Marion Gustas

Ms. Gustas is a resident at 2277 Bathgate Avenue. Up the block, at 185th Street and 3rd Avenue, a hotel with a lot across street is being developed. Ms. Gustas believes that the community does not need this hotel, and a supermarket would be a better amenity for the space. Ms. Gustas' building is also experiencing a mosquito problem that she wants to have resolved. Lastly, she complained of a sidewalk in need of repair, to which District Manager John Sanchez replied asking for the specific location of the sidewalk.

Mr. Angel Rodriguez

Mr. Rodriguez reported a noise complaint at 2064 Crotona Avenue. Since the summer, this address has been playing loud music until midnight, and sometimes later, every night. The constituent has called 311 multiple times since May 2017, yet the music persists.

Tambra Gil and Hubert Norat, representing West Farms Library

Ms. Gil and Mr. Norat informed the community about different events and programs that West Farms Library will be hosting in the upcoming weeks. The first event is a Safety in Our Community event on October 18th at 5:00 PM at the Library. It will feature an open discussion with community leaders after the shooting and stabbing incidents in the district. They also discussed a Library Hotspot Lending program that the Library offers parents with children in school from K-12. This program provides wifi hotspots intended for students that need extra data to do homework at home. Lastly, West Farms

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Library is hosting an Employer Recruitment event on October 18th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Six different employers will be present and actively recruiting library patrons.

Ms. Krystallynn Leonard, representing Idente Youth Group

Ms. Leonard announced that Idente Youth Group holds meetings for 3rd graders to 6th graders every Wednesday evening from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. She also announced that teenagers in grades 6 through 12 meet every Thursday evening from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. These gatherings promote the highest of ideals among youth and assist the students' goals and achievements through workshops and seminars. Ms. Leonard is also a part of a group called Encounter NYC that hosts events every third Friday of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for those who can appreciate music and enjoy connecting with others.

Mrs. Cole Spence

Mrs. Spence reported a complaint to the full board regarding receiving lottery housing through STAGG without the notice that the building would simultaneously serve as a supportive housing location for homeless families. The building is located at 2346 Prospect Avenue. Ms. Carrie Taft, Mr. Jay Baez and Mr. Famod Konneh followed up with Mrs. Spence following the complaint.

Reverend Marilyn Oliver

Reverend Oliver attended the Town Hall with Mayor de Blasio on October 4th, 2017. She was displeased with the Mayor's response to her concern about unaffordable housing and homelessness. She expressed this concern about the community to the board.

Ahmjad Mo, Bronx Neighborhood Health Promoter representing Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center

Mr. Mo shared information about the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center, a one-stop shop for free-of-charge health services. The center offers free tours for groups and individuals to learn about the services. It also offers meetings with a Referral Specialist that can help individuals with finding human services, housing issues, and provide opportunities to meet with HOMEbase representatives twice a week. They also offer a Healthy Birth Choices Birth Club for mothers in 3rd trimester to learn how to properly breastfeed, feed themselves, and feed the baby. They also provide infant breastfeeding classes in Spanish and offer a free lactation room for breastfeeding mothers. Some other events and programs they offer are: fitness classes, counselling, intervention programs, and car seat safety training. The Center also invited the community to a Shop Healthy stakeholder meeting that they will be hosting.

Ms. Yvonne Baccott, pollworker

Ms. Baccott reported that lies were fabricated against her by a coordinator at a polling site who left polling site before 9:00 PM. She claimed that she was unfairly dismissed after she tried to report the situation.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by his Communications and Media Liaison, Ms. Bharati Kemraj. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. participated on the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization's donation drive to help victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the earthquake in Mexico City.
- Ms. Kemraj announced that the online registration for the 2017 Tour de Bronx is now open. Participants will enjoy a free musical festival and receive a souvenir t-shirts and light snacks.
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. will be hosting the Bronx Annual Pumpkinfest Spooktacular on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club located at 550 Balcon Avenue.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mr. Konneh thanked the community board and Mr. Gil Simmons from the Monterey Houses for co-sponsoring the Working for Council District 15 Town Hall with the Mayor that was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. He informed us that the Mayor has committed to getting a Youth Court in the Bronx after being the only Borough without one for years. In addition, the Mayor has also committed to following up on some of the issues and concerns in regards to developments, shelters and supportive housing that were raised at the Town Hall. He announced that Mayor de Blasio has set up four drop-off donation sites in the Bronx for Puerto Rico.

Israel Sanchez, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mayor Bill de Blasio for committing funds towards a Youth Court in the Bronx. Councilmember Ritchie Torres' next goal is to get the court in Bronx Community Board #6's district. Mr. Sanchez announced that there will be a Press Conference for the Department of Parks and Recreation's Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) that was released for Tremont Park. He also announced that the Participatory Budgeting Neighborhood Assembly for our district will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at the Bronx Library Center at 6:30 PM where they will be discussing how \$1 million will be spend in our neighborhood. The CUNY Citizenship Now Application Assistance will be available on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at I.S. 254 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Jay Baez, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Baez reminded the community about the tenant information sessions they conduct in their offices on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He informed us that their office is offering free notary services every Tuesday from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Their office is also teaming up with FEDCAP AND the Department of Youth and Community Development to organize a relief drive, Unidos Por Puerto Rico: Relief Drive for Victims of Hurricane Maria, to collect items for the victims.

Charisse Suarez, representing Assemblyman Jose Rivera

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Ms. Suarez informed us that their office is offering a tenant assistance program every Friday from 1:00 AM to 2:00 PM. She also announced that there will be a Hurricane Relief Concert on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Fordham Plaza.

Evangelina Medellin, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Medellin informed the community about a tenant resource fair occurring on October 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at 2424 Jerome Avenue. She reminded us about the tenant support specialists that assist in tenant harassment and eviction cases on Thursdays at their office from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. She also announced that in support of breast cancer awareness there will be a mobile mammography unit on October 20, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Morris Senior Center, 80 East 181st Street. Individuals who are older than 40 years of age and are interested should schedule their appointment by calling (718) 960-3931.

Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Ortiz announced that there will be an Italian Community Breakfast event on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building located at 1 Centre Street, 5th Floor. Interested individuals are to RSVP by email at events@comptroller.nyc.gov or by telephone at (212) 669-4466. He also informed the community that the comptroller is working on a policy that would mandate companies to give a diversity profile of board members.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sanchez's district manager's report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Mr. Sanchez acknowledged that our Community Board is the only Community Board in our Borough that has accomplished their top four Budget Requests.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that the Mayor announced that the Bronx will finally get a Youth Court after being the only Borough without one for years.
- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that the Mayor announced that an investment of \$5.4 million will go towards the renovation of Quarry Ballfield, \$1.8 million towards the renovation of Mapes Ballfield and \$250,000 towards the Arthur Avenue Retail Market.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that the Department of Parks and Recreation released a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for Tremont Park to develop the site of the old Borough Hall.

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-nine (29) members.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING ON HEARING ON BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6'S FISCAL YEAR 2019 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND COMMUNITY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS.

No one requested to speak as part of the Public Hearing on Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests. Consequently, 1st Vice-Chairperson Nunez-Mejia closed the public hearing session.

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IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee: Mr. John Sanchez, District Manager

Mr. Sanchez reported on business that was conducted at the Economic Development Committee meeting of September 19, 2017. He informed us that the committee discussed the details for the upcoming “Investing 101” workshop that’s going to be held on October 23, 2017 at the Tremont Branch Library. The committee also discussed items that were going to be included in the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2019. He also announced that the next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on October 17, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the district office.

Housing and Land-Use Committee: Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, Committee Chair

Mrs. Nunez-Mejia reported on the business conducted at the meeting of September 21, 2017. At this meeting, the committee met with presenter Dr. Rosa Gil from Comunilife in regards to their “El Rio” housing development located at 2064 Boston Road. The committee was informed that this development will be comprised of 78 units. Comunilife is proposing 32 units for Bronx Community Board #6’s residents at or below 60% AMI and 46 units will be for supportive housing residents.

Mrs. Nunez-Mejia announced that the next Housing and Land-Use Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 PM.

Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles asked that we read the report on the business that transpired at the 48th Police Precinct Council meeting of September 26, 2017 that was included in our meeting packages at our leisure. Ms. Coles announced that Captain Andrew Brown will be the new Deputy Inspector of the 48th Police Precinct. She also announced that the 48th Police Precinct meets every last Tuesday of the month.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Committee Chair

Ms. Espinosa reported on the business that was conducted at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of September 20, 2017. She informed us that the committee reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year 2019 Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests.

Ms. Espinosa announced that the West Farms Rapid Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The committee will be meeting at the trailhead entrance on East 180th Street and Bronx River (next to River Garden).

Sanitation Committee: Ms. Evonne Capers, Committee Chair

Ms. Capers requested that the community refer to the literature provided in the packets for the previous meeting’s minutes. She announced that the next Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017.

Transportation Committee: Ms. Maria Garcia, Committee Chair

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Ms. Garcia reported on the business that was conducted at the Transportation Committee meeting of September 21, 2017. She informed us that committee reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year 2019 Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests and asked that we read the full report that was included in our packages at our leisure.

Veterans Committee: Mr. Michael Nelson, Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Nelson reported on the business that was conducted at the Veterans Committee meeting of September 19, 2017. He announced that the Veteran's Committee will be hosting a coat drive in December for the veterans in our community.

Youth and Education Committee: Mr. Moussa Siby, Committee Chair

Mr. Siby announced that the next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be on October 18, 2017.

Senior Citizens Outreach Committee: Mrs. Virginia Bird, Committee Chair

Mrs. Bird reported that at the Senior Citizens Committee on September 21, 2017, she brought in a backpack to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of September 13, 2017 was made by Ms. Virginia Bird, second by Ms. Maria Garcia, and was adopted by a vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposition and 0 abstention.
2. A motion to adopt Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, and was adopted by a vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposition and 0 abstention with the following changes:

Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Expense Request item #7: We request funding for the purchase of a new phone system for the Bronx River Art Center.

3. A motion to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation on the District Manager's salary increase request was not voted on.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The October 11, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla J. Leon
Community Assistant

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Carly Wine
Community Associate