



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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*Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President*

**MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ**  
Board Chairperson

**MR. JOHN SANCHEZ**  
District Manager

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 2, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas and Rosa Peraza.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Comm. Assoc. Carla Leon.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, Sara Nunez-Mejia, welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 6:47 PM.

The CP of Parks & Recreation thanked everyone for their efforts in making the Happy Land memorial a success. She suggests that certificates of appreciation be issued at the June general meeting for all who assisted, including and especially Carla Leon, Community Associate.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Minutes of February 14, 2018 General Board Meeting:**

1<sup>st</sup> VC announced that it appears that the minutes for this meeting were inadvertently erased and could not be restored. The technician who worked on the tape restoration could only recover two small portions of the tape, neither of which would resolve the issue in question. The Parliamentarian was disturbed by this and informed us that she had had a conversation with the Bronx BP's office on the matter. The matter was referred by the BP to Tom Lucania, Community Boards Liaison, who followed up with a call to the 1<sup>st</sup> VP. Apparently, the Parliamentarian thought that the Borough President himself should have responded to her query, but the 1<sup>st</sup> VC explained that Tom usually responded to these questions. The 1<sup>st</sup> VC further explained that the issue was the motion (#5) that was on the agenda of the February 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting. She consulted with Tom on this, explained that of all the taped meetings, this was the one that was inadvertently erased & couldn't be reconstructed, therefore this motion had to be included in the motions for April's meeting. This discrepancy in what was proposed and what actually took place regarding salaries, percentages and dates for retroactivity are what prevented the Board from voting on all of the motions for February's meeting. The recommendation from the Bronx BP's office is that the motions be included on April's agenda to be voted on again. The Legal Division of the Bronx BP's office also concurred with this. Tom cautioned that the meeting may be prolonged because everyone, both pro & con, would get a chance to speak on the issue. Nevertheless, the PM insisted that there were issues in the March meeting that were not debatable such as the tabling of the motion in question. It was explained further that because the original motion was presented as a result of an executive session and voted on there, it must be put back on the agenda for our next general meeting.

The Secretary attempted to clarify that the motions for promotion and/or salary increases for the Comm. Ass't. and for the DM were two separate motions. The EC had already voted to approve the promotion and raise for the former, but not for the latter. Suggestions as to how to word the motion were taken and considered. It was further explained that because there was contention with the motion regarding personnel issues and there is no recorded proof of how the motion was presented, in addition to the fact that the motion was tabled at the March meeting pending the hearing of the February 14<sup>th</sup> tape, it now has to be presented as a motion on the April meeting agenda.

Bd. Member Victoria Pamas spoke of what she had heard at the meeting from a new member's point of view/perspective. She remembered that the motion for The DM's increase was brought up, but she didn't remember hearing about retroactivity or the percentage. The Secretary acknowledged that we were negligent in our duty as a board when we allowed the rescinding of a motion that we had previously voted on and approved. The previous October's meeting, unfortunately, was filled with a lot of rancor and ended in chaos. There was also a question of whether the Parliamentarian had the right to halt a meeting and/or override a motion. Member Addo-Zuniga offered that we need to word the motion correctly so that it can be properly voted on. She also offered that as a new board member, she seemed to have entered a tense situation that leaves her a bit confused. She suspected that the other new board members probably were just as confused.

The suggested wording for the new motion to be presented at the April meeting is: "A motion to grant the DM an increase of 12% retroactive to Feb. 14, 2018." 1<sup>st</sup> VC cautioned us that the factions on the board who come to vote will have contention with this and suggests that this must be a separate motion. After a moderate discussion, it was decided that the motion will be worded as proposed in this meeting.

#### **By-Laws:**

The Secretary read and pointed out the latest revisions, and promised that these latest revisions would be sent to all board members either by email or postal mail.

#### **Committees:**

There was a suggestion that committee reports be presented in summary form at general meetings with reference to the report being in the meeting packages so that this would help to cut down on the length of our meetings. The Parks CP reminded us that we should respect the presentations made and not hold our own conversations while this is being done. Member Addo-Zuniga offered that this may occur sometimes because the meetings last so long that there is little opportunity to speak to presenters at meetings. It was suggested that we try to minimize this and one way would be to have presenters leave their contact information, etc. at the front desk so that it would be available to all. The Parks CP further suggested that we present this policy to new members at our September general meetings when they're just coming on board.

Member Pamas spoke about her experience with Michael Dixon of the BOEDC in the area of economic development. She also plans to develop a training component as part of the Economic Dev. Committee activities and will make a short presentation of her project at our next general meeting. She informed us that since she's newly retired, she's also agreed to volunteer at our CB office as a helper.

A discussion followed about those board members who aren't signed up for any committee as well as poor committee meeting attendance. This is a situation that needs to be corrected and detracts from our overall performance as a board and as community advocates. Because this is considered a

matter of importance, the 1<sup>st</sup> VP showed us letters that she had composed and proposed that they be sent to all of the board members who are not yet signed up for committees. A checklist for committee sign-up will be included with these letters so that those members would have the opportunity to commit themselves. All present agreed by a show of hands that this go forward. The importance and obligation of committee participation is something that needs to be clarified for new members so that this is understood from the beginning of their tenure. Because new board members were notified so late of their appointments, they were not introduced to the other members, so many of us are unfamiliar with each other. The advantages & disadvantages of this situation were discussed and it was concluded that it would promote more cooperation among us if we were more familiar with each other. It was proffered that one way to accomplish this was through committee meeting participation.

**New Business:**

The Secretary suggested that we vote to give the Parks CP permission to issue certificates and present them at June meeting to those who had been so helpful to her at Happy Land memorial and other activities and this was unanimously approved by a show of hands. It was also mentioned that CAssoc Carla appeared in the Bronx Times in a nice article about the Parks cleanup.

The agenda and which items will be included for the upcoming April meeting were discussed. The PM suggested that the CP initial the finalized agenda. It was agreed that the following items be included:

1. A motion to adopt the Minutes of February 14 without adopting motion #5. This becomes necessary due to the absence of recorded proof.
2. A motion to adopt March's general membership meeting Minutes.
3. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Dept. of Parks and Recreation on the renovation of the Prospect Playground.
4. A motion to send a letter to Citywide Adm. Services re development of a park on the vacant land behind the CB office at 1932 Arthur Ave.
5. A motion to issue a letter of support to VIPP for their development of 11 SRO units at 2029 Hughes Ave.
6. A motion to grant a 12% salary increase to the DM retroactive to February 14, 2018.
7. Other motions (if any).

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floretta O'Brien,  
Board Secretary

*Honorable Ritchie Torres,  
City Council Member, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca,  
City Council Member, 17<sup>th</sup> Council District*