



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

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Members Present:

Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Glenda Bond, Evonne Capers, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Kia Ferguson, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Jerry L. Jackson, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons, Jacquetta Whaley, Michael Yu

Members Absent:

Irene Borgen (Leave of Absence), Nelson Chimilo, Diana Diaz, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Frank Kolovic, Octavia Lewis, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, and Carrie Taft

Elected Officials Present:

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Adolfo Abreu, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Justin Sanchez, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera
Yazmemlyn Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ibrahim Shatara, representing NYS Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda
Hidekee Salazar, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The February 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the VIP Community Services Men's Residence, which is located at 764 East 176th Street, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:44 PM by First Vice-Chairperson Sara Nunez-Mejia.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Chaplain Floretta O'Brien.

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III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Jason A. Caraballo, Montefiore Health Systems

Mr. Caraballo informed the community that Montefiore Medical Center's President and Chief Executive Officer, Steven Safyer, went to Albany to testify against the budget cuts to insure that the State of New York receive the appropriate Medicaid funding that is needed for the populations in our communities that receive Medicaid services in order to maintain a healthy life. He also informed us that Montefiore assisted with the funding towards the scholarships that are going to be awarded to the winners of the Annual Spelling Bee. Mr. Caraballo announced that they are also hosting Free Diabetes and Respiratory Workshops during the months of February and March throughout the Bronx. Additionally, the month of February is "Heart Month". Montefiore is offering educational and hands-on events on cardiovascular health and heart disease management.

James Dobbins, representing NYC Health + Hospitals at Lincoln Hospital

Mr. Dobbins informed the community that Lincoln Hospital is the first hospital to distribute Naxalone Kits, a medication that is designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. Lincoln Hospital is currently offering training and workshops in regards to the use of the Naxalone Kits every Tuesday and Thursday.

Jose Vega, representing Foundation for the Revival of Classical Culture

Mr. Vega informed the community that Foundation for the Revival of Classical Culture is a organization that has mission to reintroduce classical principles of music, artistic, and scientific practice into our culture. They are currently accepting applications until June 12, 2018 for the Music-Science Summer Program for youths between the ages of twelve and eighteen.

Yvonne Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez reported a complaint in regards to the fruit markets on East Tremont Avenue between Prospect Avenue and Crotona Avenue. Ms. Rodriguez stated that these businesses are placing large fruit stands and trash containers outside of the market that are blocking pedestrian traffic. She also expressed her gratitude to Community Assistant, Carla Leon, for assisting in meeting the community needs.

Clara Bailon

Ms. Bailon reported a complaint in regards to dog waste on Bathgate Avenue between East 178th Street and East 179th Street. She also informed us that the Department of Sanitation are not collecting their garbage on their service date and is attracting rodents. Ms. Bailon expressed her concerns in regards to city agency vehicles and the United Postal Service trucks blocking the street ramps.

Kristallyn Leonard, representing World Youth Parliament

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Ms. Leonard informed us that the World Youth Parliament (WYP) consists of creating a forum where young people, whatever their ideology, culture, or social condition might be, can come together to discuss issues that concern them and manifest their conclusion in such way that their voice may be heard worldwide. She also announced that there is a retreat from Friday, February 16, 2018 until Sunday, February 18, 2018 in Long Island, New York. The cost of the retreat will be \$110.

Ignayra Lopez, representing New York Public Library

Ms. Lopez introduced herself as the new manager of the Belmont Library. Ms. Lopez announced that the Belmont Library is hosting a job fair on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. She also announced that Pajama Night in partnership with LiteracyINC will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM to celebrate and read out for the children between the ages of four and eleven. She informed us about the Fine Forgiveness for kids and teens who have book return late fees on their library cards.

Estevan Vargas, representing Mangi Pasta

Mr. Vargas announced that their new business will be opening at 608 East 187th Street. Mr. Vargas has also partner with community organizations to train and educate his individuals for hiring. He also thanked District Manager, John Sanchez, for his assistance in the preparation of opening this establishment.

Shannell Arroyo, representing Union Community Health Center

Ms. Arroyo introduce herself as the new Community Outreach and Relations Coordinator. She informed us that Union Community Health Center provides comprehensive, quality healthcare services in a patient-friendly environment. The Center's highly trained physicians and dedicated staff treat each patient with dignity, respect and compassion. There are six facilities in the Bronx and their main location is located on 260 East 188th Street. She also informed us that Union Community Health Center is focusing on Children Dental for the month of February.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was included in our meeting packages. First Vice-Chairperson Sara Nunez-Mejia asked that we read the report at our leisure.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda informed the community that he is currently working on the New York State Executive Budget. Assemblyman Sepulveda also informed us about the Close to Home policy that allows young individuals who are incarcerated to be placed in residential programs closer to their families and communities. These young individuals received funded services and resources that can support their treatment and education to transition back into their communities. In addition, Assemblyman Sepulveda announced the Annual Spelling Bee for third, fourth and fifth graders within the thirty-two participating

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schools. Each awarding child will receive \$1,000 where \$500 will go towards the 529 New York State College Savings Fund and \$500 in cash.

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mr. Konneh informed us that the Mayor de Blasio delivered State of the City Addressed on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. This year's theme for the State of the City was "Fairest Big City in America." Mayor de Blasio is building and preserving affordable housing, lowering crime records, student test scores has increased and every four year-year-old has access to pre-K. Mayor de Blasio wants to go further, move faster and do more.

Adolfo Abreu, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Mr. Abreu informed us that their office has an immigration lawyer who can assist with citizenship, green card renewal and replacement. They also have a domestic violence counselor and provide family law services. They are also offering Free Tax Preparation Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Mr. Abreu can be contacted by telephone at (718) 842-8100 to schedule an appointment. Mr. Abreu announced that Councilmember Torres will be having a rally in City Hall with JaRule to demand NYCHA to provide heat and hot water for the thousands of residents.

Justin Sanchez, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca

Mr. Sanchez introduced himself to the community as the new Community and LGBT Liaison for Councilmember Salamanca. He announced that a Tenant Resource Fair with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 1054 Simpson Street from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. He also informed us their offices provides assistance with housing, immigration and family law. Mr. Sanchez could be reached by telephone at (718) 402-6130 or by email at jsanchez3@council.nyc.gov

Charisse Suarez, representing Assemblyman Jose Rivera

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 informed us that their office is presently assisting the victims of the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire. Ms. Suarez announced the New York State Thruway Authority Amnesty, a website dedicated to the Amnesty Program for Tolls by Mail customers. Customers are able to pay for the tolls they owe in full and violations, fines, fees will be waived. This service will be available until February 26, 2018.

Yazmemlyn Duarte, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake

Ms. Duarte introduce herself as Assemblyman Blake's new Deputy Chief of Staff. She informed us their office provides assistance for tenants every Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Hidekee Salazar, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Salazar informed us that New York City Tenant Support Unit can assist tenants with housing related issues such as tenant harassment, evictions, overcharges, denial of repairs and services. This assistance is

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available at their office every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed us that Comptroller Stringer released a report that revealed that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development is dragging its feet on building new affordable units when there is over a thousand of city-owned vacant lots. He also informed us that Comptroller Stringer released an audit report revealing MTA's Access-A-Ride service in regards to rider complaints in relations to delays, no-shows, safety and more. Comptroller Stringer is calling for the MTA to create a new position of Access-A-Ride Ombudsperson whose role is designed to defend the public's interest by being tasked with overhauling the complaint system and fixing the extensive bureaucratic breakdowns within the service. Mr. Ortiz concluded his reported by announcing that he has a list where community residents can sign to receive emails from Comptroller Stringer.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Irene Borgen, representing St. Barnabas Hospital Health System

Ms. Borgen presented on the planned Bronx Center for Health Communities. St. Barnabas Hospital received a State Health Care Facilities Transformation Grant to build out health and wellness facilities across from the hospital. The facility will be 50,000 square feet and is expected to be completed in late 2019. The first floor of the facility will include medical services such as pediatrics, WIC, women's center and extended hours urgent care center. The second floor of the facility will include a Population Health and Wellness Hub that includes a medical fitness center that will be made available to the community.

Michael McNamee, representing the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBRO)

Mr. McNamee presented on the EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant for West Farms. SoBRO is working alongside with Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions, a consulting firm specializing in providing turnkey technical assistance for brownfield redevelopment projects, servicing public and private sectors. They are also working with the Department of City Planning and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice. Mr. McNamee informed us that there are seven areas of concern identified for clusters, for instance, housing affordability, educational attainment, and family-sustaining wage employment. The second cluster area is West Farms. One of their focus areas in Wyatt Street and Morris Park Avenue where the area is open to develop affordable housing and improve public space. SoBRO is concerned about the pedestrian improvements, addressing problematic intersections to ensure pedestrian safety and to address noise and traffic pollution. Mr. McNamee announced that a public visioning session will be held on March 7, 2018 at Wings Academy High School.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

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- **Mr. Sanchez announced that ShapeUp NYC fitness classes are now being offered in our district every Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM until August at the East Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center. The fitness class instructor will be board member, Audrey Harden.**
- **Mr. Sanchez informed us that there's a city-owned vacant land behind our district office. Mr. Sanchez met with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services were the Department of Citywide Administrative Services was receptive to having the space be used for the community.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the 2nd Annual Bronx Celebration Day hosted by Fordham University's Office of Public Safety and the Fordham Club student group will be held tentatively on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Fordham Plaza.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6's Economic Development Committee is hosting a financial literacy workshop with MyMoney workshops on Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the East Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center.**

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-three (23) members.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee: Vacant

Mr. Sanchez announced that Economic Development Committee will be hosting a financial literacy workshop with MyMoney workshops on Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the East Tremont Neighborhood Health Action Center. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 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 that was discussed at the Housing and Land-Use Committee meeting of January 18, 2018. Mrs. Nunez-Mejia reported that the Michael McNamee from SoBRO presented about the EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant. A public visioning session will be held on March 7, 2018 at Wings Academy High School for the future state of Wyatt Street and Morris Park Avenue.

Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles asked that we read the meeting minutes of the 48th Police Precinct meeting of January 30, 2018 at our leisure. She announced that the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the district office. She also announced that the next 48th Police Precinct Council meeting will be held at the 48th Police Precinct on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

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

Ms. Espinosa asked that we read the meeting minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of January 17, 2018 at our leisure. Ms. Espinosa announced that the It's My Park Day clean up at the Happy

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Land Monument will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in preparation of the 28th Anniversary of the Happy Land Fire. The Happy Land Memorial mass will be on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 1:00 PM. She also announced that she attended the Department of Parks and Recreation's Bronx WinterFest 2018 event on Saturday, February 3, 2018 with Community Assistant, Carla Leon. She thanked Ms. Leon for her assistance in contacting the Department of Parks and Recreation to clean up the Happy Land Monument. To conclude her report, she informed us that she attended the Friends of Tremont Park Meeting.

Sanitation Committee: Ms. Evonne Capers, Committee Chair

Ms. Capers reported on the business that was conducted at the Sanitation Committee meeting of January 18, 2018. She informed us that the committee is concerned in regards to the lack of litter baskets on East Tremont Avenue between Devoe Avenue and Boston Road. She also informed the community that the next Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the district office.

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

Mrs. Bird informed us that the Senior Citizens Outreach Committee did not have any items to discuss at the committee meeting of January 18, 2018. She also informed us that she attended a self-defense course and a yoga and exercise course with the Senior Citizens of Casella Plaza.

Transportation Committee: Ms. Maria Garcia, Committee Chair

Ms. Garcia did not have a report to give. The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the district office.

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

Mr. Nelson announced that the next Veterans Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the district office.

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

Mr. Siby reported on the business that was discussed at the Youth and Education Committee meeting of January 17, 2018. He informed us that the committee discussed details about hosting a youth summit in the spring that focuses on bullying and police relations. The goal is for the summit to incorporate workshops and speakers. The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the district office.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of January 10, 2018 with the corrections submitted by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley was made by Ms. Margie Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by a vote of twenty-three in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.

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2. A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters in regards to motion #2 that was placed on the meeting agenda was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Paul Ramirez and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, six oppositions and zero abstentions. (Please note that board member, Ms. Maria Latimer, left the meeting prior to this motion.)

At this time, Bronx Community Board #6 went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Board reconvened by proceeding with the agenda items.

3. A motion to end executive session was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Victoria Pamias and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, zero oppositions and one abstention. (Please note that board member, Ms. Maria Latimer, left the meeting prior to this motion.)
4. A motion to approve Executive Committee's recommendation on Community Assistant's change of title and salary increase as of May 2, 2017 was made by Ms. Victoria Pamias, seconded by Mr. Jerry Jackson and adopted by a vote of thirteen in favor, zero oppositions and eight abstentions. (Please note that board members, Ms. Maria Latimer and Ms. Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, left the meeting prior to this motion.)
5. Other Motion: A motion to approve District Manager's 12% salary increase request from May 2, 2017 was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, four oppositions and one abstention. (Please note that board members, Ms. Maria Latimer and Ms. Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, left the meeting prior to this motion.)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the February 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 10:05 PM pursuant to a motion made by Ms. Claudette Coles, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-one in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla J. Leon
Community Associate

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

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