



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457
Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org
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, March 14, 2018

Members Present:

Stephanie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nelson Chimilo, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Maria Latimer, Frank Kolovic, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Rosa Peraza, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, and Jacquetta Whaley

Members Absent:

Glenda Bond, Kia Ferguson, Jerry L. Jackson, Laura James, Octavia Lewis, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Victoria Pamas, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, and Michael Yu

Elected Officials Present:

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Aisha Bamba, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Justin Sanchez, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Ibrahim Shatara, representing NYS Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda
Heidi Salazar, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The March 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Belmont Library, which is located at 610 East 186th 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 Maria Garcia.

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III. PRESENTATION ON FIRE SAFETY BY FDNY FIRE EDUCATION SAFETY UNIT

Mr. Adam Lessuck, representing the New York City Fire Department Fire Education Unit informed us that the new smoke alarms have a ten year seal that prevent individuals from removing batteries. The new smoke alarms also come with a silence button. However, batteries need to be tested once a month. Mr. Lessuck stated that 85% of fires that occur at home occur in homes with faulty smoke alarms. He informed us that a program through Red Cross called Sound the Alarm provides free installation of smoke alarms.

Mr. Lessuck also informed us about a recent fire that occurred in our district. He informed us that the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire was caused by an unsupervised child and killed thirteen individuals. He encouraged the parents present to supervise their children, especially in the kitchen. Following the start of this fire, the door was left open. He advised us that if a fire occurs, close the door in order to isolate the fire and to have the windows to fire escapes unblocked and unlocked.

Mr. Lessuck lastly informed us that fireproof buildings are made to prevent fires from spreading throughout the building, therefore it is best to stay in the apartment if it is not the source of the fire itself. In a non-fireproof building, it is important that everyone leaves. The community were also encouraged to be careful with space heaters, heated blankets, and other electrical items.

Fire safety presentations are available for groups upon request.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF NYPD CAPTAIN ANDRE BROWN

Captain Andre Brown replaced Captain Timothy McCormack as Commanding Officer of the 48th Police Precinct. Captain Brown informed us that his goal is to continue the good work started that was started by Captain McCormack. He also informed us that the Community Precinct Council meetings are every last Tuesday of the month and he invited the community to express their concerns and suggestions. The 48th Police Precinct contains four Neighborhood Coordination Officers sectors where two officers are assigned to actively engage with the community members and residents of their sectors.

Captain Brown stated that in the last twenty-eight day period, crime has decreased by 11%. The spikes of crime are occurring in thefts from automobiles and mailboxes. He encouraged individuals to remove valuable possessions from cars to prevent theft. He also encouraged residents to deposit or mail any checks directly at the post office.

Captain Brown asked the community to follow the 48th Police Precinct on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to learn more about their community events.

V. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

David J Rojas III, representing Fathers and Families Coalition of America

Mr. Rojas informed the community that he is the outreach coordinator for Fathers and Families Coalition of America, an organization that provides services for children and families. On June 11 and 12, 2018,

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there will be a symposium held at Columbia University. On Day 1, the symposium will constitute of a policy institute. On Day 2, there will be a credential opportunity for continuing education. Mr. Rojas also requested that individuals working in social services get involved and present at the symposium. For more information, Mr. Rojas can be contacted at (702) 544-1035.

Annette Rivera, representing Bathgate Dog Park Committee

Ms. Rivera expressed concern about the lack of dog parks in or community. On behalf of the Bathgate Dog Park Committee, she announced the need for a dog park along Bathgate Avenue between East 182nd and East 183rd Streets is high because of raising concern about dog feces and a lack of garbage cans.

Chairperson Nunez-Mejia invited Ms. Rivera to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and the Sanitation Committee meeting the following Wednesday and Thursday to further discuss how the community board can assist with this request.

Jose Goicuria, representing Bronx River Arts Center

Mr. Goicuria introduced himself to community as the Education Manager at the Bronx River Arts Center. He thanked Bronx Community Board #6 for supporting BRAC and allowing BRAC to use Bronx Community Board #6's office for their classes. Mr. Goicuria also announced that cartooning classes are offered on Saturdays for adults and children aged 5 and up. Starting on Saturday, March 17, a program for teenagers aged 13 to 19 will be offered at Wings Academy. Additionally, pop-up workshops should begin on April 14th and June 6th. For more information, call Jose at 917-407-6678.

Paula Palmer

Ms. Palmer expressed concern about a lack of accessible housing and housing discrimination. She has been struggling to find Section 8 housing.

Jose A. Padilla Jr.

Mr. Padilla proposed to the community that Mapes Ballfield be renamed Austin Jacobo Baseball Field. He also expressed concern about the lack of enforcement of fire hydrant parking rules. He also proposed that Department of Transportation reinstate the right turn on red rule on Cambreleng Avenue at East Fordham Road because of poor traffic flow. Lastly, he informed the board that he applied for a permit from Parks and Recreation to bring a soccer program for ages 6 through 12 at Quarry Park, but was denied the permit.

Heidi Hynes, representing Mary Mitchell Center

Ms. Hynes expressed her excitement about the renovation of Mapes Ballfield. She also provided an update on their building at Mapes Ballfield. She stated that she applied for capital funding from Councilmember Salamanca, Councilmember Torres, and the Borough President. The renovation will cost about \$5 million, including public restrooms, a food hub, and the CURE Violence program.

Ms. Kim D. Jane, representing Gethsemane Baptist Church

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Ms. Jane announced that Gethsemane Baptist Church is holding a Youth Talent Show this spring. Auditions for the You Got Talent contest will take place on March 24th and April 10th at the Gethsemane Baptist Church located at 771 Fairmount Place.

Ms. Kristallynn Leonard, representing Encounter NYC

Ms. Leonard informed the community about Encounter NYC, a youth group that meets every third Friday each month at 1735 Union Port Road. The next meeting will occur on Friday March 16th, and will have music and catering.

VI. DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATE TO FIRST RESPONDER

A Community Service Award was presented by District Manager John Sanchez and Mr. Jay Baez to Hlayma Shilleh for her bravery, courage, and selfless service to our community as a first responder to the tragic fire of December 28th, 2017.

VII. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by Andy Toledo:

- On Monday, March 19, the office of the Borough President will be hosting a parliamentary workshop.**
- They are planning a workshop with the Department of City Planning that will teach community board members about the ULURP process, rezoning, and housing.**
- Last month's State of the Borough Address is available for viewing and reading on the Borough President's website.**
- Community Board applications are now available online until early May.**

VIII. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Honorary Rafael Salamanca informed the community that Councilmember Corey Johnson is the new speaker for the City Council. Councilmember Ritchie Torres is the chair of the Oversight and Investigation Committee. Councilmember Torres will be investigating waste and mismanagement of agencies. Councilmember Salamanca is now the chair of the Housing and Land Use committee, which is in charge of land use, re-zoning, land-marking, and housing.

Councilmember Salamanca invited the community to a housing forum on Thursday, March 15 occurring at 1054 Simpson Street from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. A non-profit will be in attendance to assist residents in their applications for affordable housing. He emphasized need for affordable housing in the district. He is working to bring affordable housing also for individuals who make slightly more than the current income cut-offs.

He also announced plans to start an East Tremont Business Improvement District (BID). Businesses pay an extra tax to pay for services for cleaning and economic development. It would improve businesses along

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the strip and increase visibility of the community. Community Board #6 would have a seat on the board of directors.

On Thursday, April 19, Councilmember Salamanca will be hosting an Abrazo Boricua at Maestros Catering Hall starting at 7:00 PM. Open bar and free dinner will be provided. To secure tickets, reach out to Councilmember Salamanca's office at (718)402-6130.

Currently, there is a vacancy in the state senate. There will be a special election on April 24. Councilmember Salamanca encouraged residents to get out and vote to show the government that our community cares.

Heidi Hynes from Mary Mitchell Center thanked Councilmember Salamanca for helping to fund New York Stabilizing, which is a program that helps individuals to organize and connect with lawyers.

Mr. Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mr. Konneh reported that internships with Mayor Bill de Blasio's office will now be paid. The deadline to apply to the internship program is April 4th, 2018. He informed the community that he would personally interview applicants that apply through Bronx Community Board 6. Mr. Konneh also informed the community that Bronx Fire Preparedness Weekend, sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and Red Cross, will take place from April 13 through April 15.

Ms. Aisha Bamba, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Ms. Bamba informed the community that Councilmember Ritchie Torres is working on a new fire safety legislation that would require safety knobs to be installed on stoves in apartments housing children under 10 years of age. She also invited seniors in the community to a Senior Appreciation Breakfast in partnership with New York Botanical Garden. Additionally, she informed the community that the councilmember's office is providing free tax prep for single individuals with a gross income of under \$24,000 and families of four with an income under \$60,000. Lastly, adult literacy classes are also offered at the councilmember's office.

Mr. Justin Sanchez, representing Councilmember Rafael Salamanca

Mr. Sanchez invited the community to a training on Participatory Budgeting on March 29th. For more information about the training, he can be reached at (718)402-6130 or by email at jsanchez3@council.nyc.gov.

Mr. Jay Baez, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Baez informed the community that Senator Rivera's office is still hosting Tenant Tuesdays weekly from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM to assist individuals with any housing issues. He also announced that he will be going to Puerto Rico for the week to assist with the Maria Fund and witness efforts first hand. Department of Sanitation has a unit that gives out tickets to individuals who do not pick up after their dogs. Lastly, there is a New Unit of Human Rights Commission that deals with the illegal discrimination against tenants with subsidies.

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Ms. Charisse Suarez, representing Assemblyman Jose Rivera

Ms. Suarez informed us that Assemblyman Rivera's office is offering a tenant assistance program every Friday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They will be extending office hours in March to accommodate working class individuals. For more information, call the office at (718)933-2204. Their office is located at 1 Fordham Plaza, and is open for citizens to drop in.

Heidi 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 available at their office every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Their office is also offering free tax prep services. For more information, call the office at (718)933-6909 or drop by the office located at 2175 Jerome Avenue.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Tanjila Rahman on the Department of Consumer Affairs' New York City Tax Prep Program

Ms. Rahman informed the community about the services offered at the Department of Consumer Affairs. The DCA is a city government agency that licenses over 81,000 businesses across 65 different industries. They enforce Consumer Protection Laws, including complaints about false advertisements, and collect money for consumers if the business reported is in violation.

Free tax preparation is available for free online for individuals whose income is less than \$66,000. It is also available for free in person for individuals who make less than \$54,000. The tax preparers are certified by the IRS. Interpretation is available. To learn more, text "taxes" to 42033 or visit nyc.gov/taxprep.

Department of Consumer Affairs has 22 financial empowerment centers throughout New York City that assist with credit and budgeting issues. Services at these centers are free. The program has helped reduce debt by \$54 million and increase savings by \$4 million since it started 10 years ago.

Lastly, DCA is partnering with Department of Housing and Preservation in the Ready to Rent program, which provides targeted financial advising for housing. The Bronx partner is Nostradamos located at 754 Melrose Avenue. Visit nyc.gov/readytorent for more information.

Presentation by the Wildlife Conservation Society on the Wildlife

The Wildlife Conservation Society presented on their Leadership Program offered for youth aged 12 to 24. They have programs at schools and at the zoo that assist youth in workforce readiness.

The Future Leaders Program extends over 9 months and focuses on skill building and workforce development. Every Tuesday, students focus on soft skills such as resume writing. Every Thursday, students focus on leadership training. Students also complete service programs that they create individually. Additionally, students attend seminars that are meant to inform teens of all ages about their

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rights as a student and the youth empowerment activities that they can engage in. The program enables teens to connect with local employers and assess college readiness in an effort to rebuild youth economic opportunities within the Bronx. Additionally, the program provides assistance to students with college applications and financial aid.

Recently they received funding to expand to younger groups outside of the Bronx Zoo. The Teen Outreach program will complement the Future Leaders Program, and will span over 9 months. Both programs will begin recruiting in August, and the program itself starts in October.

Presentation by the Department of Parks and Recreation on the Mapes Ballfield's renovation design

Michael Ortiz from New York City Department of Parks and Recreation presented on the Mapes Ballfield's renovation design. The park is being reconstructed through the Community Parks Initiative. They received funding to completely transform the park.

Renovations include:

- New entrances on Southeast and Southwest corners
- Updates to perimeter sidewalks
- Natural turf ballfield with netting
- Seating area with 6 trees
- Adult fitness center
- Picnic area
- New bleachers
- Open circulation path
- Play area for children
- New lighting

Presentation by the US Soccer Foundation on the installation of a mini soccer pitch at Columbus Square

The US Soccer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partnering with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York City Housing Authority, and the Department of Education on the NYC Soccer Initiative. One program of the NYC Soccer Initiative is the "Soccer for Success" program, a free after-school program that helps kids establish healthy habits and develop critical life skills through caring coach-mentors and family engagement. MS 45 is a proposed program participant and, if approved, will be the recipient of a mini soccer pitch at Columbus Square to serve those students.

X. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sanchez's district manager's report was included in our meeting package. District Manager John Sanchez requested that we read the report at our leisure. Mr. Sanchez mentioned an empty lot owned by the city located behind the community board office at 1932 Arthur Avenue. The city has plans to convert the empty space into a parking lot, but the community board plans to push back against any added parking. No decisions have been made, but the board will remain diligent in addressing the issue.

XI. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty (20) members. (Please make note that Board Members, Lanell Gardenhire, left prior to the roll call attendance)

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XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were included in our meeting packages. First Vice-Chairperson Sara Nunez-Mejia requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

XIII. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of February 14, 2018 was not voted on because subsequent to the board meeting of February 14, 2018, a board member raised a concern regarding the validity and accuracy of motion #5. Since there was no recording available to verify the motion, it was decided to place motion #5 on the agenda for consideration at a future board meeting.
2. A motion to issue a letter of support to the Department of Parks and Recreation on the Mapes Ballfield's renovation design made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and was adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.
3. A motion to issue a letter of support to the US Soccer Foundation on the installation of a mini soccer pitch at Columbus Square made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Virginia Bird and was adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.
4. A motion to approve Bronx Community #6's Letter of Comment to City Agencies for the Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Budget was made by Ms. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and was adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the March 14, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM pursuant to a motion made by Ms. Jacquetta Whaley, seconded by Ms. Rosa Peraza and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).

Respectfully submitted:

Carly Wine
Community Associat

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2018

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2108	LOS PARKS AND RECREATION FOR MAPES BALLFIELD	LOS US SOCCER FOUNDATION	LETTER OF COMMENT FOR FY2019	ADJOURNMENT
Stephanie Addo	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jannie Armstrong	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Bird	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glenda Bond						
Evonne Capers	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nelson Chimilo	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Claudette Coles	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Diana Diaz	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Margarita Espinosa	Present		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kia Ferguson						
Frank J. Franz	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lanell Gardenhire	Present					
Audrey Harden	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jerry L. Jackson						
Laura James						
Frank Kolovic	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Octavia Lewis						
Sara Nunez-Mejia	Present		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Nelson	Present		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence					
Victoria Pamias						
Rosa Peraza	Present		No	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Paul Ramirez						
Hiram Ratliff						
Wendy Rodriguez						
Moussa Siby						
Gil Simmons	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carrie Taft	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley	Present		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Yu						