



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. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Members Present:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Chris Collazo, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Edwardo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, Lisa Sanchez, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley, Michael Yu

Members Absent:

Glenda Bond, Nelson Chimilio, Diana Diaz, Kia Ferguson, Laura James, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Rosa Peraza (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Hiriam Ratliff, Angel Santana, Moussa Siby

Elected Officials Present:

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Fernando Garcia, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The September 12, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Bronx River Art Center, which is located at 1087 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:35 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by First Vice-Chairperson Maria Garcia.

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III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Michelle Brody, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Brody announced that registration for fall classes for both teens and adults at the Bronx River Art Center are now open. Individuals who interested may register through eventbrite or through the Bronx River Art Center's website. There's an early bird special for those individuals who register by September 21, 2018.

Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan informed the community about the center's upcoming exhibition. This exhibition will invite back different curators and executive directors that have contributed a lot of time, work and effort to the Bronx River Art Center. She also emphasized that she would like more community members to attend openings.

Alpheus Marcus

Mr. Marcus lives in and advocates for the community. He is calling for more community engagement in order to make the community safer.

Ignayra Lopez, representing Belmont Branch Library

Ms. Lopez invited the community to the New York Public Library branches. She announced the New York Public Library's library card initiative, which aims to get youth registered for a free library card and the Back to School Open House where they are giving away free internet access to students enrolled in a Department of Education school on September 29, 2018. Ms. Lopez also announced that the Belmont Library will be registering individuals to vote for National Voter Registration Day on September 25th.

Linda, Rosenthal, representing Volunteers of America

Ms. Rosenthal informed the community that the Universal Pre-K for All program at Volunteers of America has two (2) slots left. The program is free for families, and children registered must turn four (4) by December 31, 2018 in order to attend. The program runs for the full day and provides a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack.

Franklin Gomez

Mr. Gomez is a resident of Bronx Community Board #6. He expressed concern about the excess of homeless shelters in the district and concern about more coming to his neighborhood. He also expressed concerns about traffic hazards on his block and will follow up with the district office.

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Anne Krassner, representing Citi Bike

Ms. Krassner informed the community about the launch of Citi Bikes dockless bike pilot program in the Bronx. Currently there are 100 to 200 bikes out right now, which will be available for the full duration of their four month pilot program. The Department of Transportation will be using the pilot program to collect data on how bike share operates in the Bronx. The bikes are dockless, locking to themselves without need for a dock. One ride is \$2 for 30 minutes, and a monthly membership is \$15 per month. However, through Health First, all NYCHA residents and SNAP recipients can ride for \$5 per month.

Tiara Celestine

Ms. Celestine is a resident of the community. She expressed the need for more activities for children in the neighborhood. She also expressed concern about lack of advertisement for community board meetings.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was included in our meeting packages. Chairperson Evonne Capers asked that we read the report at our leisure.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Rivera encouraged attendees to vote in the New York State primary election on September 13th. Senator Rivera reported back to the community about the July 20th 5th Annual Senior Health Fair at Monroe College. He also informed the community that his office can help coordinate a naloxone training for community groups. Additionally, his office is organizing a Halloween themed Health and Housing Fair on October 20th. More information will be available within the month. Senator Rivera also reported that he is working to pass legislation that would raise lead poisoning standards. His office is located on the 5th floor of 2432 Grand Concourse, and the public is encouraged to drop by.

Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Ms. Enea informed the community about the immigration services available at their office, some of which include citizenship assistance, petitions, and consultations. The immigration services are provided by CUNY and are by appointment only on Mondays and Wednesdays. She also informed us that their office also offers extensive resources and specialized assistance for NYCHA and housing complaints. Councilman Torres has been working to pass two (2) bills targeting increased transparency for property tax increases and unpaid fines by landlords and building owners.

Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez informed the community that Councilman Salamanca was extremely active in ensuring that speed cameras were turned back on. Additionally, he's working to increase affordable housing in the district, encouraging 15% of new developments be set aside for homeless families. Councilmember

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Salamanca is seeking a letter of support from the community board regarding support for this bill. Mr. Melendez also informed us that their office provides immigration services on Wednesdays and Thursdays and also helps with housing related issues, and can assist community members with the housing connect process.

Fernando Garcia, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda

Mr. Garcia informed the community that their office can assist individuals and families with housing issues, particularly with landlord troubles and the affordable housing application process. Individuals who are interested, can visit their office at 900 Rogers Place.

Taz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

Ms. Duarte informed that their office provides tenant services every Tuesday from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. If you need more information, their district office can be reached at (718) 588-0159. She also encouraged attendees to register to vote.

Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed the community about the March of Peace on Friday, September 21st. It will begin at 79 West 183rd Street at 6:00 PM. Mr. Peters also informed us that their office provides tenant support from HRA on Thursdays from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Lastly, Mr. Peters reminded the community to register to vote.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- **Mr. Sanchez informed us that over the summer, the Community Board helped sponsor Summer Open Gym Nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More than fifty youth attended each night session, and the sessions will continue through the fall.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the Community Board received extra funding for fiscal year 2019. Mr. Sanchez encouraged the public to attend committee meetings and provide input on the allocation of additional funds.**
- **Mr. Sanchez also announced that the Community Board is sponsoring its First Annual Scholarship Contest. Five \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to High School seniors in our community district. If you need additional information, please call the Community Board's district office at (718) 579-6990.**

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-six (26) members.

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VIII. UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW PUBLIC HEARING

The community board conducted a public hearing pursuant to the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) on application C190026HAX. The application, if approved by all relevant authorities, will facilitate the development of an 8-story mixed use building containing 53 units of residential housing and 9,898 sq. feet of commercial space at 4697 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York 10458 (Block 3041, Lot 38).

No one requested to testify as part of the public hearing on the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure application stated above. Therefore, Chairperson Capers ended the public hearing.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were included in our meeting packages. Chairperson Capers requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

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

Ms. Espinosa invited the community to the Friends of Tremont Park Family and Community Day event on Saturday, September 15th. The event will occur at 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM in Tremont Park.

Ms. Espinosa also encouraged the community to report overgrowth in tree pits in the community.

Veterans Committee: Ms. Carrie Taft, Committee Co-Chair

Ms. Taft invited the community to the Veterans Committee's Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Training at Gethsemane Baptist Church, 771 Fairmount Place, on Thursday, September 27th from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of June 13, 2018 was made by Ms. Virginia Bird, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and adopted by a vote of twenty-five (25) in favor, zero (0) opposed and one (1) abstention.
2. A motion to approve Uniform Land Use Review Procedure application C190026HAX which will facilitate the development of an 8-story mixed use building containing 53 units of residential housing and 9,898 sq. feet of commercial space at 4697 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York 10458 (Block 3041, Lot 38) was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia and adopted by a vote of twenty-two (22) in favor, one (1) opposition and three (3) abstentions.

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XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Victoria Pamas informed the community about Legal Aid, a new organization that can assist community members with legal issues. Legal Hand will open at 713 East Tremont Avenue in October. She encouraged attendees to spread the word and volunteer at Legal Hand.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the September 12, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-six in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).

Respectfully submitted:

**Carly Wine
Community Associate**

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

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

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

| NAME | ATTENDANCE | MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2018 | ULURP APPLICATION C190026HAX | ADJOURMENT |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Stephanie Addo | | | | |
| Jannie Armstrong | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Clarita Bailon | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Virginia Bird | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Glenda Bond | | | | |
| Evonne Capers | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Nicole Carter | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Nelson Chimilio | | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Chris Collazo | Present | Yes | | |
| Claudette Coles | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Diana Diaz | | | | |
| Margarita Espinosa | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Kia Ferguson | | | | |
| Frank J. Franz | Present | Yes | No | Yes |
| Eduardo Garcia | Present | Yes | Yes | |
| Maria Garcia | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Lanell Gardenhire | Present | Yes | Abstain | Yes |
| Audrey Harden | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Laura James | | | | |
| Frank Kolovic | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Maria Latimer | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Michael Nelson | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sara Nunez-Mejia | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Floretta A. O'Brien | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Marie Louise Ocran | Leave of Absence | | | |
| Marilyn Oliver | | | | |
| Victoria Pamiás | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Rosa Peraza | Leave of Absence | | | |
| Paul Ramirez | | | | |
| Hiram Ratliff | | | | |
| Wendy Rodriguez | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Angel Rosario | Present | Abstain | Abstain | Yes |
| Lisa Sanchez | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Angel Santana | | | | |
| Moussa Siby | | | | |
| Gil Simmons | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Carrie Taft | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Jacquetta Whaley | Present | Yes | Abstain | Yes |
| Michael Yu | Present | Yes | Yes | Yes |