



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 June 13, 2018

Members Present:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Glenda Bond, Evonne Capers, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Frank Kolovic, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, and Michael Yu

Members Absent:

Diana Diaz, Kia Ferguson, Jerry Jackson, Octavia Lewis, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Jacquetta Whaley

Elected Officials Present:

Council Member Fernando Cabrera

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Thomas Lucania, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Lillian Barreto, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera
Nicholas Peters, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Naffie Baldeh, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer
Justin Velasquez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The June 13, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the West Farms Branch Library which is located at 2085 Honeywell Avenue, Bronx, New York 10460, and was called to order at approximately 6:39 p.m. by Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.

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:

Erica Maldonado, representing Legal Hand Tremont

Ms. Maldonado introduced herself to the community as the Volunteer Coordinator for Legal Hand Tremont. Legal Hand is a service that is free and open to the community, providing legal resources and assistance on a range of topics including child support, public benefits, domestic violence, and divorce. Legal Hand also trains volunteers to give legal assistance. Ms. Maldonado announced that Legal Hand first opened its doors in Crown Heights in 2015, and is now opening at 713 East Tremont Avenue.

Cherno Sow, representing Solar One

Mr. Sow informed the community about opportunities provided by Solar One. Solar One is a nonprofit environmental organization that encourages housing providers and homeowners to adopt solar panels by providing technical assistance and financial studies. The organization also provides free services to affordable housing providers. He encouraged those who don't own homes to reach out and inquire about Solar One's Community Shared Solar, through which individuals can receive solar credit.

Krystallynn Leonard, representing Encounter NYC

Ms. Leonard invited the youth in our community to participate in Encounter NYC, a youth group that convenes over praise, worship, and donated food. Encounter NYC meets every third Friday of the month at 1735 Unionport Road from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM. She also announced that Encounter NYC is accepting food donations.

Terrell F. Merritt, representing Department of Education

Mr. Merritt addressed the community on behalf of the SHSAT Diversity Outreach team at the Department of Education. He informed us about the agency's initiative to increase access to specialized high schools for communities like Bronx Community District #6. Mr. Merritt announced that handbooks for specialized exams can be found within schools and libraries in Bronx Community District #6.

Adriana Alba, representing Children's Aid

Ms. Alba informed the community about open slots for Children's Aid Early Childhood program for children up to five years old. The program lasts a full year through the summer, provides food for children, and teaches them social and emotional skills through play. She also informed us that there are teaching opportunities available for aides, assistants, and teachers.

Gail Nathan, representing Bronx River Arts Center

Ms. Nathan informed the community that Bronx River Arts Center has officially reopened. The soft opening event occurred in May 2018, and opening events will continue through September. She also

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announced that Bronx River Arts Center is hosting a sculpture park and exhibition in Starlight Park that was funded by Lincoln Center Cultural Renovation Fund. The exhibition is a play on the historic Bronx International Exhibition of Science, Art, and Industry in 1918. The exhibition will remain on display for an entire year. The opening will take place on June 30th and July 1st from 12:00 PM until 9:00 PM and 12:00 PM until 6:00 PM respectively. Activities include art classes and moonlight dancing, and the event is free and open to the public.

Johnella A. Hill, representing River Court Homeowners' Association

Ms. Hill informed the community about her concerns about the West Farms neighborhood. She has been a resident for twenty-six years, and is frustrated with the hostile environment and poor quality of life in West Farms. She claims that people are using green areas as “waste baskets and toilets for pets.” She and other homeowners are constantly ticketed by the Department of Sanitation.

Ms. Rosa Peraza directed Ms. Hill to the Sanitation Committee, which meets the third Thursday of each month.

Karelyn and Francis Mejia

Mses. Mejia introduced themselves as sisters who grew up in our neighborhood. They informed the community about their frustrations with Crotona Park current poor conditions.

District Manager John Sanchez informed Mses. Mejia that Crotona Park is not under Bronx Community Board #6's jurisdiction. He advised Mses. Mejia to reach out to Bronx Community Board #3.

Charlie Reynoso, representing New York Restoration Project

Mr. Reynoso informed the community that New York Restoration Project received funding for Bathgate Community Garden, a garden operated by New York Restoration Project. He informed us that on Thursday, June 14th, the organization is hosting a visioning session from 1:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the garden, located at 1818 Bathgate Avenue. The garden is the biggest garden the organization owns, and all are encouraged to attend and give their input.

Jessica Perez-Maldonado and Carmen Lopez, representing St. Thomas Aquinas and St Joseph's School

Ms. Perez-Maldonado and Ms. Lopez addressed the community together. Both St. Thomas Aquinas St. Joseph's School are open for registration. Tuition is not free, however, financial aid is available for families in need. All grade levels are accepted.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was reported by his Director of Community Boards and Legislative Affairs, Mr. Thomas Lucania. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

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- **Mr. Lucania announced that each board member is required to sign the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy form that was included in their package and return it back to District Manager John Sanchez no later than July 1, 2018. The Equal Employment Opportunity Policy manages relationships between staff members and board members.**
- **Mr. Lucania informed us that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. released his annual development report, which highlights \$2.7 billion of development and 16 million square feet of total development in the Bronx. The report is broken down by Community Board.**

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Council Member Fernando Cabrera

Council Member Cabrera announced that with the assistance of Corey Johnson, Speaker of New York City Council, he was able to secure an addition \$43,000 for each community board in the Bronx. However, he informed us that the additional funding cannot be used for salaries.

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mr. Konneh informed the community about the Mayor's initiative to expand Pre-K for all through the new budget. The budget will also include funding for affordable housing and education.

Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Ms. Enea informed the community about budget updates for the 15th Council District. She announced that the City Council has succeeded in their Fair Shares campaign; more than 800,000 New Yorkers will now qualify for half-fare metrocards. The budget will also create a commission on property tax reform for small homeowners in the Bronx. Expanded funding has been allocated for SYE, in addition to providing more guidance counselors for schools. Lastly, there is increased funding for community trash clean-ups.

Justin Velendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca

Mr. Velendez informed us on a proposed legislation that would require the Department of Homeless Services to report to community boards about the number of shelters in their district. This would ensure there is equal distribution of shelters across New York City.

Naffie Baldeh, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake

Ms. Baldeh informed us that Assemblyman Blake represents the 79th Assembly District in the Bronx. His office offers free legal services for those facing housing and immigration issues. The office is located at 780 Concourse Village and can be reached at (718) 538-3829.

Nicholas Peters, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters introduced himself as a new staffer for the assemblyman. He informed the community about services available for tenants facing housing or landlord issues.

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Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Ortiz reported on an initiative by the Comptroller to hold agencies accountable for spending budget money properly. He informed us that among the agencies being investigated are the Department of Education and the Department of Corrections. The Comptroller's job is to crack the numbers and determine what's happening with our city dollars.

Lillian Barreto, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Barreto invited the community to sign up for a monthly employment bulletin that provides regular job postings. To sign up, community members should email Ferarri@nysenate.gov. Ms. Barreto invited the community to save the date for Senator Rivera's fifth annual Senior Health Fair at Monroe College on Friday, July 20th. She also invited the community to their SCRIE event on June 28th occurring at the Belmont Library from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez introduced Bronx Community Board #6's Summer Interns.
- Mr. Sanchez informed the community about an initiative by Bronx Community Board #6 to highlight businesses along East Tremont Avenue.
- Mr. Sanchez also informed the community that Bronx Community Board #6 Garden Group received a \$2,000 grant to renovate Drew Community Gardens over the course of a few weeks. The last event was on Saturday, June 10th.
- Mr. Sanchez advised the community to review the meeting packet includes a list of block parties, street festivals, and events occurring in Bronx Community District #6 this summer.
- Mr. Sanchez thanked the community board members for another successful year.
- In response to Ms. Rosa Peraza's inquiry about Bronx Community Board #6's proposed internal budget for fiscal year 2019, Mr. Sanchez stated it would be put forth to the board after the council's additional money to the board is processed.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Jonathan McClean, representing the Jewish Board

Mr. McClean presented on an eighteen-unit Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Residential Treatment Center at 4462 Park Avenue. The center will provide services to thousands of families and children in New York City. The proposed center is a residential treatment shelter and not a shelter or a juvenile detention facility; children will be returned back to their families successfully. The center will provide job development skills in addition to coping skills. The center is a single-sex program, and will service youth aged 12 to 21. The Jewish Board hopes to serve young men, but has not reached a final conclusion.

Tawkiyah Jordan, representing the Department of City Planning

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Ms. Jordan presented to the community on a proposed zoning text amendment to establish a M1 Hotel Special Permit for new hotels. The Bronx currently has about twenty hotels with over a thousand rooms. As zoning regulations stand, new hotels are permitted to be constructed in light manufacturing districts as-of-right. In other words, it's very easy to develop hotels in M1 districts. The new text amendment would require hotels to retrieve a special permit for their construction, which would make the process more difficult.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

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

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee: Vacant

The Economic Development Committee report was given by District Manager John Sanchez. He reported on business that was conducted at the Economic Development Committee meeting of May. The committee discussed the East Tremont Business Outreach initiative to begin this summer. He announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19 at 6:30PM at the district board office.

Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles invited the community to Gang Awareness Day on Wednesday, June 27 at 6:00 PM. The event will be held at the Mount Carmel Recreation Center located at 2405 Southern Boulevard. She also invited the community to National Night Out on August 7th. She advised us to contact the 48th Precinct at (718) 299-8100 for more information.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Ms. Margarita Espinosa Committee Chair

Ms. Espinosa informed us that the Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet in May. She announced that Mapes Pool was selected to participate in the Cool Pools pilot program this summer. The program will take place from June 27th until September 9th. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20th at 6:30PM at the district board office.

Sanitation Committee: Ms. Evonne Capers, Committee Chair

Ms. Capers invited the community to read the committee's report that was included in our meeting packages at our leisure. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21 at 6:30PM at the district board office.

Transportation Committee: Ms. Maria Garcia, Committee Chair

Ms. Garcia reported that the Department of Transportation presented to the Transportation Committee at their May meeting regarding the East 179th Street Intersection. She also reported that the Crotona Malls

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has been beautified. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21 at 6:30PM at the district board office.

X. ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS

As a result of an election that was performed by a secret ballot, the community board unanimously elected the following individuals to serve as the board's executive officers for the two-year term that begins July 1, 2018 and ends June 30, 2020.

Evonne Capers, Board Chairperson
Maria Garcia, 1st Vice Chairperson
Moussa Siby, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Victoria Pamas, Secretary
Virginia Bird, Treasurer
Gil Simmons, Parliamentarian

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of May 9, 2018 was made by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, seconded by Ms. Janie Armstrong and adopted by a vote of twenty-five in favor, zero oppositions and zero abstentions. (Please note that board member, Mr. Paul Ramirez, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**
- 2. A motion to provide a letter of support for the Jewish Board's eighteen-unit Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Residential Treatment Center at 4462 Park Avenue serving boys ages twelve to twenty-one was made by Ms. Maria Garcia, seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and by a vote of twenty in favor, one oppositions and four abstentions. (Please note that board member, Mr. Paul Ramirez, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**
- 3. A motion to provide a letter of support for the proposed zoning text amendment to establish a M1 Hotel Special Permit for new hotels was made by Ms. Rosa Peraza, seconded by Ms. Virginia Bird, and adopted by a vote of sixteen in favor, one opposition and eight abstentions. (Please note that board member, Mr. Paul Ramirez, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**
- 4. A motion to table Bronx Community Board #6's revised By-Laws was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mr. Frank Franz and adopted by a vote of seventeen in favor, five oppositions and three abstentions. (Please note that board member, Mr. Paul Ramirez, left the meeting prior to this motion.)**

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XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez congratulated Ms. Evonne Capers on her new role as Board Chairperson of Bronx Community Board #6.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The June 13, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

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 JUNE 13, 2018

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2018	LOS FOR JEWISH BOARD	LOS FOR M1 HOTEL TEXT AMENDMENT	TABLING BY- LAWS	ADJOURMENT
Stephanie Addo	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Glenda Bond	Present	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Diana Diaz						
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Kia Ferguson						
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Jerry L. Jackson						
Laura James	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frank Kolovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Octavia Lewis						
Sara Nunez-Mejia						
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	No	Yes
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence					
Victoria Pamias	Present	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Rosa Peraza	Present	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Paul Ramirez	Present					
Hiram Ratliff	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Wendy Rodriguez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Moussa Siby	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Jacquetta Whaley						
Michael Yu	Present	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes