



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, December 13, 2017

Members Present:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz (arrived after roll call attendance) Margarita Espinosa, Kia Ferguson, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Carrie Taft, Jacquetta Whaley, and Michael Yu

Members Absent:

Irene Borgen (Leave of Absence), Glenda Bond, Frank Franz, Jerry Jackson, Octavia Lewis, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Marie Louise Ocran, Moussa Siby, and Gil Simmons

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Cesar Correa, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Israel Sanchez, representing City Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Jay Baez, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Heidi Salasarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The December 13, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the Mount Carmel Senior Citizens Center, which is located at 2405 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458, and was called to order at approximately 6:45 p.m. by Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.

II. INVOCATION

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

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

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

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Marina Gonzalez, representing Citizens Committee for New York City

Ms. Gonzalez informed us that Citizens Committee for New York City is a nonprofit organization that award micro-grants of up to \$3,000 volunteer-led neighborhood and community groups in their efforts to build stronger communities. They support a wide variety of groups, from block associations to community gardens that develop community improvements. The grant application submission deadline is on January 22, 2018 at 11:59 PM.

Olivia Ramos, representing the Department of Education at the Bronx Zoo

Ms. Ramos received a grant that allows individuals the opportunity to engage with nature by offering free tickets to the Bronx Zoo on Saturdays between December 2017 and March 30, 2018. She also announced that as part of the grant, the Department of Education at the Bronx Zoo is seeking ten youth volunteers to help out with educational programs, such as school field trips, camps, and birthday parties. Volunteers will also meet people who share a passion for wildlife and conservation.

Krystallynn Leonard, representing Encounter NYC

Ms. Leonard informed us that Encounter NYC offers events every third Friday of the month. They are located at 1739 Union Court Road and meet from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM for those who can appreciate music and enjoy connecting with others.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Cesar Correa, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake

Mr. Correa reminded us that their offices is still offering "Tenant's Tuesday" from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Mr. Correa announced that Assemblyman Blake is hosting Christmas in the Bronx where toys will be distributed to children from ages one through fourteen on December 19, 2017 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Bronx Works Classic Center, 286 East 156th Street. He also announced that Remembering the Dream and the Dreamer-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1488 Hoe Avenue.

Israel Sanchez, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Mr. Sanchez announced that their offices is currently hosting a Holiday Toy Drive. They are accepting unwrapped toys for children between the ages of four through fourteen from now until December 20, 2017. Toy donations can be dropped off at their office which is located at 573 East Fordham Road. He also informed us that the Department of Sanitation is currently looking for temporary snow laborers to remove snow and ice from bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants, and other locations throughout the City. To register, go in person to a Sanitation Garage or a Department of Transportation Garage Monday through Saturday between 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM, except on City holidays.

Jay Baez, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Baez reminded the community about the information sessions they conduct for tenants in their offices on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He also provided the community with the Senator's Rivera's Legislative Report, Quality of Life and Identity Theft brochures. He informed us that their office will be closed from December 20, 2017 to January 2, 2018.

Heidi Salasarez, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Salasarez announced that their office will be holding their first event of the year on January 24, 2018 at which legal services will be provided for immigrants. The event will be hold at 8 Clinton Place from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Ms. Salasarez reminded us about the housing assistance available at their offices every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

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 on November 10th, Bronx Community Board #6 held its first Open Mic Night at University of the Streets. He thanked the community board members and Fordham students that attended.
- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that on November 20th, the Economic Development Committee held its Investing 101 event with Popular Community Bank at the Tremont Branch Library. Mr. Sanchez thanked board member, Victoria Pantias, for her leadership in the preparation of this event.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that the vacant city-owned land behind the district office will be put to use due to support of our elected officials.
- Mr. Sanchez encouraged the community to put pressure on the Mayor's office and the Department of Design and Construction to open Bronx River Arts Center after seven years of construction.

VII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-five (25) members.

VIII. DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CHARLES W. COOKE FARM, WEST FARMS RAPIDS AND TREMONT PARK CLEAN UPS

The distribution of Community Service Awards to the participants of the Charles W. Cooke Farm, West Farms Rapids and Tremont Park cleanup was presented by Ms. Margarita Espinosa, Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson, Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez and District Manager John Sanchez.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee: Vacant

Mr. Sanchez reported on the business that was discussed at the Economic Development Committee meeting of November 14, 2017. He reported that Mr. Michael Nixon from Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation presented on SBS's Chamber on the Go Program. The program reaches out to businesses not within a Business Improvement Districts or a Merchant's Association in an effort to provide free services to help small business owners in a variety of different ways. Mr. Sanchez also reported that the committee discussed and organized the Investing 101 event that was held on November 20, 2017 and the possibility of hosting an entrepreneur event in 2018. The Economic Development committee will meet on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:30PM.

Law Enforcement Committee: Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles reported on the business that transpired at the 48th Police Precinct Council meeting of November 28, 2017. She reported that Captain Andre Brown updated the community on the crime rates. She asked that we read the full meeting report at our leisure. Lastly, she informed us that the next 48th Police Precinct Council will be held at the precinct on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Margarita Espinosa, Committee Chair

Ms. Espinosa thanked Carla Leon and Carly Wine for the preparation of Community Service Awards to the participants of the Charles W. Cooke Farm, West Farms Rapids and Tremont Park cleanup.

Ms. Espinosa reported on the business that was conducted at the Parks and Recreation committee meeting of November 15, 2017. She informed us that Bronx Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa attended the meeting to discuss the proposed 181st Street Garden located adjacent to Quarry Ballfield. Bronx Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa informed the committee that due to current legislation, the garden land cannot transform through Greenthumb, but she informed us that she will work to transform it through the Department of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Espinosa informed us that the construction of West Farms Rapids will resume shortly.

Ms. Espinosa also informed us that Yolanda Rodriguez from Bronx Arts Factory also presented to the committee about the grant their organization received to install public art and facilitate programming in Tremont Park.

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Sanitation Committee: Evonne Capers, Committee Chair

Ms. Capers asked the community to contact District Manager John Sanchez if they have any Sanitation complaints. She also announced that the next Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2017.

Transportation Committee: Maria Garcia, Committee Chair

Ms. Garcia informed the community that the District Service Cabinet meetings has been extremely helpful in addressing complaints with the Department of Transportation.

Senior Citizens Committee: Virginia Bird, Committee Chair

Ms. Bird informed the community her committee received three large turkey donations from Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda. She also informed us that ten seniors from Casella Plaza were invited to a Senior Citizen luncheon with Phipps Neighborhoods.

Veterans Committee: Michael Nelson, Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Nelson informed the community that the Red Cross has been providing free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for the last ten years. To receive one, call 1-800-redcross. Furthermore, Mr. Nelson informed us that the VA Hospital in Kingsbridge Road is hosting an employment workshop for veterans that is also open to the general population. The employment workshop will be held on December 18, 2017 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of November 8, 2017 was made by Mrs. Virginia Bird, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by a vote of 25 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The December 13, 2017 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla J. Leon
Community Assistant

Carly Wine
Community Associate

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

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