



**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 January 10, 2018

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Jerry Jackson, Laura James, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Floretta O'Brien, Victoria Pamas, Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Jacquetta Whaley, and Michael Yu.

Members Absent:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Glenda Bond, Alice Charles, Kia Ferguson, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Audrey Harden, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Octavia Lewis, Michael Nelson, Marie Louise Ocran, Moussa Siby, Gil Simmons, and Carrie Taft.

Elected officials Present:

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda

Elected officials' representatives present:

Famod Koneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Bharati Kemraj, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Adolfo Abreu, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres
Joshua Murillo, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ibrahim Shatara, representing Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda
Ivelisse Arroyo, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The January 10, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at the New Tabernacle Baptist Church which is located at 990 East 181st Street, Bronx, New York 10460, and was called to order at approximately 6:41 p.m. by Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Reverend Hiram Ratliff.

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III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Jennifer Tomaiolo, representing Bronx River Arts Center

Ms. Tomaiolo informed the community that their Winter 2018 Pop-Up Art Workshops are scheduled for January 20th until March 24th. They will be held at our district office located at 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A. They will be offering a cartooning class series to youth aged 12 to 18 years old for eight sessions. They will also be offering two classes each Saturday for children, teens and adults. Individuals who are interested are to register at www.eventbrite.com and search for "BRAC". She also informed us that the application for Teen Project Studio is open on their website. Teen Project Studio is a program where teenagers work with working artists and the Bronx River Art Center on a weekly basis. She announced that the Bronx River Art Center site should be opened by April.

Roseanne Andrade, representing Teddy Bear Project

Ms. Andrade informed the community about her organization's new initiative called Sundays@11, which is a new greening group that will regularly meet on Sundays at 11 to garden and clean up local parks and greenways. These events will be free and open to the public, and will begin in April. Projects will involve gardening, conservation, construction, and tree guard work. She is looking for volunteers of all ages.

Adam Lessuck, representing the Fire Department of New York

Mr. Lessuck and Lieutenant Frank Menen from the Fire Safety Education Safety Unit advised us that prevention and early detection is a key essential. He informed us that the Fire Safety Education Safety Unit is available to present at meetings or hold an information session. They can be reached at (718) 281-3870. He also advised us to contact (877) RED-CROSS for free alarm installation.

Awilda Rodriguez, representing Affinity Health Plan

Mr. Rodriguez introduced herself as the Regional Manager for the Facilitated Enrollment Department. She informed us that Affinity Health Plan is a nonprofit organization that provides health insurance for individuals who receive Medicaid, Essential Plan, Medicare and Child Health Plus.

Marcelo Villagran, representing NYC Health + Hospitals

Mr. Villagran introduced himself as the Public Health Educator of the Community Outreach Unit in Lincoln Hospital. He informed us they represent several hospitals and clinics in the Bronx. Mr. Villagran offered us health services that are provided by NYC Health + Hospitals.

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IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was reported by his Communications and Media Liaison, Ms. Bharati Kemraj. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Ms. Kemraj informed us that Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced that Marricka Scott-McFadden will be serving as the new Deputy Borough President.
- Ms. Kemraj also informed us that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is inviting Bronx residents to consider joining their local Community Board. He will be accepting applications for all twelve Community Boards from city residents who reside, work or have professional or other significant interests in The Bronx. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is encouraging young people ages 16 and 17 to apply for community board membership.
- Ms. Kemraj announced that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. will be hosting "Remember the Legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." on Monday, January 15, 2018. The event will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, 808 East 224th Street, and will begin at 10:00 AM.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Famod Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mr. Konneh informed us that the Mayor's office filed a lawsuit against five oil companies, for damages to the City caused by man-made global warming. He also offered his assistance to any individual who was affected or that knows someone who was affected by the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire and needs assistance.

Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda

Assemblyman Sepulveda informed us that his office has collected clothing and hygiene products donations for the victims affected by the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire. He stated that his office is always accepting donations in order to be prepared if any other tragedy would occur. He also informed us that he just got back from Albany where there was a discussion on the State of the State Governor's budget where the community would be in a \$6 billion deficit. He will be conducting information sessions throughout the community in regards to the budget to inform those individuals who aren't aware of the budgeting process. He announced the Annual Spelling Bee for third, fourth and fifth graders. Each child who wins will receive \$1,000 where \$500 will go towards the 529 New York State College Savings Fund and \$500 in cash. He concluded his report by announcing that there will be a Valentine's Day Senior Citizens' event at the Castle Hill Senior Center.

Adolfo Abreu, representing Councilmember Ritchie Torres

Mr. Abreu announced that he is Councilmember Ritchie Torres' new Deputy Chief of Staff. Mr. Abreu inform 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. Mr. Abreu could be contact by telephone at (718) 842-8100 or by email at aabreu2@council.nyc.gov.

Joshua Murillo, representing Assemblyman Michael Blake

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Mr. Murillo informed us that their office provides Tenant Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He also informed us that their office is currently collecting clothes and hygiene products for the families who were affected by the 2363 Prospect Avenue fire. He also announced that the Assemblymember is having his State of the District on Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Concourse Village Community Center, 777 Concourse Village East. You can RSVP by calling Mr. Murillo at (718) 538-3829 or by emailing him at murilloj@nyassembly.gov.

Ivelisse Arroyo, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Arroyo reminded us about the housing assistance for tenants available in their offices every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. She also announced that their office will be hosting a Know Your Rights Forum where individuals can learn about immigrants' rights, how to avoid immigration fraud and what services are available to the community. This forum will take place on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, 8 Clinton Place.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Ben Samuels-Kalow, representing CREO College Prep Charter School

Mr. Samuels-Kalow presented on CREO College Prep Charter School, a proposed fifth through twelve grade school that will educate students to thrive in college and assume responsibilities for identifying and solving problems in their communities and in our world. CREO College Prep Charter School will be a school where they will serve all students for free. Their school will be focusing of literacy and computer science and will be a school where every minute counts. They will begin by servicing 96 fifth graders in 2019-2020. Then, 192 students in fifth and sixth grade in 2020-2021 and so forth until they reach their goal in 2031.

Andrew Foglia, representing BOLD Charter School

Mr. Folia presented on BOLD Charter School, a proposed tuition-free, kindergarten through fifth grade public charter school for the students of the Bronx planning to open in August 2019. Their mission is to educate students to succeed in college, to access opportunities and serve as the next generation of leaders. Their educational program will include two teachers in every classrooms, extended learning time, special education and English language support, and electives in performing arts and athletics. Mr. Foglia informed us that BOLD Charter School will enroll kindergarteners and first graders and will add a grade every year until they reach their goal.

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 informed us that Bronx Community Board #6 held its 2nd Annual Holiday Toy Giveaway where more than 200 children received toys, enjoyed refreshments and took pictures with Santa.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Community Board #6 received a Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Award from Governor Andrew Cuomo for \$207,555. The grant will be for storefront facade improvement for businesses on East Tremont Avenue between Prospect Avenue and Southern Boulevard.
- Mr. Sanchez also informed us that the district suffered a great tragedy when a fire erupted at 2363 Prospect Avenue. He thanked Board Member Michael Yu, who was on the scene that evening and helped gather clothing for families. He also attended the vigil that was held the next evening with Board Members Claudette Coles, Jacquetta Whaley, Lanell Gardenhire and Michel Yu.
- Mr. Sanchez notified us that Monodnock Construction, the company redeveloping Lambert Houses, sent the Community Board a job application to be distributed throughout the community. Residents of Bronx Community Board #6 get priority.
- Mr. Sanchez also announced that the Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) will be hosting art workshops on Fridays and Saturdays in the district office.
- Mr. Sanchez concluded his report with informing us that there will be an initial meeting with stakeholders interested in creating a Friends of Tremont Park group. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the Tremont Neighborhood Action Center, 1826 Arthur Avenue, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- Mr. Sanchez congratulated Ms. Carly Wine, Community Associate, on her acceptance to Hunter College's Urban Planning program.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of nineteen (19) members.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee: Vacant

The Economic Development Committee report was given by District Manager John Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez reported on the business that was discussed at the Economic Development Committee meeting of December 19, 2017. He reported that the committee discussed the possibility of hosting workshops centered on budgeting and credit building. He announced that the next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at the district office.

Health and Human Services Committee: Ms. Diana Diaz, Committee Chair

Ms. Diaz reported on the business that was discussed at the Health and Human Services Committee meeting of December 19, 2017. Ms. Diaz informed us that the Tremont Health Action Center are in the plans of developing classes to educate individuals on the opioids epidemic.

Housing and Land Use Committee: Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, Committee Chair

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Mrs. Nunez-Mejia informed us that the Housing and Land-Use Committee did not meet in the month of December. She also announced that the next Housing and Land-Use Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Claudette Coles, Committee Chair

Ms. Coles asked that we read the meeting minutes of the 48th Police Precinct meeting of December 19, 2017 at our leisure. She announced that the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 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, January 30, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Ms. Margarita Espinosa Committee Chair

Ms. Espinosa informed us that the Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet in the month of December. She announced that the committee will begin the discussion and planning for the Happy Land Memorial Monument clean up at the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Sanitation Committee: Ms. Evonne Capers, Committee Chair

Ms. Capers asked the community board to contact District Manager John Sanchez if they have any complaints in relation to sanitation. She also announced that the next Sanitation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

X. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 13, 2017 with a correction to the title of item VII's spelling be corrected from "disrtibution" to "distribution" was made by Mrs. Virginia Bird, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by a vote of 19 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions.
2. A motion to provide a letter of support for CREO College Prep Charter School, a proposed grade 5-12 school was made by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia, seconded by Mr. Michael Yu and adopted by a vote of 13 in favor, two oppositions and four abstentions.
3. A motion to provide a letter of support for BOLD Prep Charter School, a proposed grade K-5 school was made by Ms. Evonne Capers, seconded by Mrs. Sara Nunez-Mejia and adopted by a vote of 13 in favor, two oppositions and four abstentions.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez announced that Ms. Alice Charles submitted a letter of resignation. Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez also announced that she's in remission.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the January 10, 2018 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Paul Ramirez, seconded by Ms. Diana Diaz and unanimously adopted by acclamation (19 in favor, zero opposed and zero abstentions).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla J. Leon
Community Assistant

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

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