



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, April 10, 2019

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nelson Chimilo, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinosa, Eduardo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Maria Latimer, Michael Nelson, Floretta O'Brien, Reverend Marilyn Oliver, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft, and Jaquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Nicole Carter, Christopher Collazo, Frank Franz, Audrey Harden, Laura James, Frank Kolovic, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Victoria Pamas (Leave of Absence), Rosa Peraza, Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, and Angel Rosario.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Ramon Cabral, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Lillian Barreto, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Steven Ochoa, NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera
Marc Cruz, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes
Antirson Ortiz, representing Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The April 10, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at Volunteers of America Bronx Early Learning Center, which is located at 1887 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:38 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by First Vice-Chairperson, Ms. 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:

Linda Rosenthal, representing Volunteers of America

Ms. Rosenthal welcomed the community board to Volunteers for America Bronx Early Learning Center. She informed the community that registration is open for Pre-K for All. Children registered must be three or four years old.

Max Resnick, representing Local Voices

Mr. Resnick informed the community about Local Voices, a community project occurring in three Bronx neighborhoods, including Tremont. In order to celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month, Local Voices will be hosting conversations around the neighborhood and invited community organizations to get involved. Conversations can be recorded at Tremont Branch Library.

Cindy Dorantes, representing Make-A-Wish Foundation

Ms. Dorantes informed the community about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants the wishes of children who are terminally ill. Currently, there are 35 Wish Kids in Bronx Community Board #6, 5 of which are waiting for volunteers to go to their homes or hospital rooms to hear their wishes. The organization is volunteer-driven and is seeking volunteers to help hear the wishes of these children. More information will be sent to those who listed their names down.

A constituent reported that the QR code on the flyer doesn't work and that the volunteer coordinator didn't reach out after she reached out in February 2019.

Ms. Maria Garcia asked Ms. Dorantes to specify the role of volunteers, to which she responded that the sole responsibility of volunteers is to visit homes and receive the wishes.

Gail Nathan, representing Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan invited the community to Governor Andrew Cuomo's budget presentation on Friday, April 12 at 6:00 PM. The presentation is free and open to the public. She also informed the community that registration for Spring classes are still open for registration. There are 12 to 13 classes per week, with no cancelled classes this semester. During spring break, open workshops will be available to the public. Lastly, the Tableau exhibition opened in early April. The exhibition is curated by a past gallery director and is followed by an artist talk. To sign up for the mailing list, visit their website at www.bronxrivertart.org

Timothy Harrell, representing the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)

Mr. Carrell informed the community about the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), an agency independent of New York Police Department that investigates and mediates the conduct of the NYPD. The Action Board consists of 13 members. The next Public Board meeting is on May 8th, 2019, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM at Bronx River Houses Development Community Center. All individuals are

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welcome to share opinions, views, and concerns regardless of residency. The Action Board is able to give presentations at schools, churches and offices, and encouraged the community to solicit these services.

Board Member Michael Nelson inquired about the selection process. Mr. Carrell informed him that they are appointed by the NYPD and the New York City Council.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr's report was presented by his Community Board Liaison, Justin Sanchez. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Board members that applied for reappointment to the Community Board will hear back shortly.
- Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. along with other elected officials are rallying together against the Mayor's plan to close Rikers and build a new jail in Mott Haven. They are instead advocating for criminal justice reform to be done correctly. Mr. Sanchez encouraged residents to stay engaged as there are events and action items in the works.
- The Bronx Annual Development Report has been released. There have been billions of dollars in investment and 100,000's of affordable residential units in our district.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. has partnered with the Department of Education to launch the new program, the Extended Use Hardship Program. This program will pay the Department of Education permit fees for community organizations who will like to use any Department of Education facility for community programming until June 30, 2019. The program is based on funding availability.
- Bronx Week is approaching, starting on Thursday, May 9 and ending on Sunday, May 19, 2019.
- The Borough President's Office will be hosting a public health education event with a light lunch on Friday, May 3rd at 851 Grand Concourse. Doors will open at noon, and the program starts at 12:20 PM. For more information or to RSVP, call (718)590-3522.
- On April 23, 2019, there will be a DYCD Fatherhood Sexual Assault Awareness from 5:30 until 8:30 PM at The Bronx County Building Veterans' Memorial Hall located at 851 Grand Concourse.
- On Thursday, April 25, there will be a Faith-based Land Development program from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM at 851 Grand Concourse.

Board member Michael Nelson asked about alternate proposed sites for the new Bronx jail. Mr. Sanchez responded that there is a huge parcel of land behind the Bronx County Hall of Justice, which is owned by both the City and the State.

Board member Clarita Bailon asked for clarification about the process. Mr. Sanchez clarified that our borough will certainly be getting a community-based jail. In response to questions about why Staten Island was excluded, he reported that data has proven that building a community-based jail in Staten Island would not be cost-efficient.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

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Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez announced that Council Member Salamanca Jr. will be hosting a town hall meeting for the St. Mary's Park Houses and for John Adams' Houses residents on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:00 PM to discuss the current state of the housing development with local elected officials and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The town hall meeting will take place at St. Mary's Park Community, which is located at 595 Trinity Avenue, Bronx, New York. He also announced that Council Member Salamanca Jr. will be hosting a free mammogram screening event on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 between 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The mammogram bus will be stationed at 1070 Southern Boulevard. Individuals who are interested, are required to call (718) 402-6130 to schedule an appointment. Mr. Melendez informed us about the immigration and housing assistance services that are offered at their offices.

Ramon Cabral, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Mr. Cabral informed us that after numerous complaints about the United States Postal Service, the Congressman's office has engaged in multiple discussions with the Postmaster. As it stands currently, many residents are either receiving late delivery or not receiving mail. With about 500 routes in the Bronx, there are a total of 80 staff positions not filled. Part of the solution is to host a job fair for postal worker positions. Additionally, there will be a Town Hall in different communities to address concerns. Please call (718) 620-0084 with any concerns about the postal service, social security, housing, and veterans.

In response to Mr. Cabral's presentation, multiple community members expressed frustration about redundancy. Board Member Nelson Chimilio requested that elected officials revisit standards on how to properly deliver the mail.

Lillian Barreto, representing Senator Gustavo Rivera

Ms. Barreto informed the community that the Senator's office is open to receiving and mediating constituent complaints and making referrals as needed. Ms. Barreto also informed the community that their office offers free notary services and family law consultations. She reported about the passed New York State Budget, and invited the community to a budget Town Hall at Fordham University on April 11th, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Lastly, their office is bringing overdose prevention trainings to community groups.

Fiorella Bini, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda

Ms. Bini informed the community that the Senator's office provides services such as housing, employment, immigration, and social security. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM, and is open on Friday from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. The office is located at 900 Rogers Place, and can be reached at (718)991-3161. NYS Senator Sepulveda is working on a visitation bill that would establish an inmate visitation program that increases contact with relatives, friends, and volunteers. Lastly, Senator Sepulveda, along with NYC Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson, NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera, NYS Assembly Member Michael Blake, NYS Senator Luis R. Sepulveda, NYS Assemblywoman Karine Reyes & 1199 SEIU Healthcare Education Project, is hosting a job fair at 1666 Bathgate Avenue from 10:00 PM to 2:00 PM on May 17th 2019.

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Nicholas Peters, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Mr. Peters informed the community that session is currently ongoing in Albany. The State budget has been finalized, and now Assemblyman Pichardo's focus is on creating new rent regulations before they expire. The member has been working to pass his bill A2351, which aims to eliminate the Statutory Vacancy Bonus Loophole, to make sure Landlords are not able to profit from displacing their tenants. Last month, the Assemblymember celebrated Women's History Month. For Women's History Month, the Assemblymember helped sponsor a trip to the United Nations' 63rd Annual Commission on the Status of Women for a group of young women from the Charter School for Law & Social Justice and the Young Women's Leadership School. The Assemblymember also celebrated Nutrition Month. He attended a Health Disparities Workgroup Meeting and discussed with members present about their gripes with nutrition in the Bronx and how to improve Bronx residents' overall health. Additionally, Hunger Free NYC tabled at their district office and provided information about SNAP benefits, access to food assistance, and other important resources. The Assemblymember appeared on UCHC's live show as part of his healthy eating initiative to demonstrate how to make his favorite healthy meal. He also met with the administration and spoke to students from PS 58 alongside Bronx Health Reach, to discuss the importance of healthy eating.

The Assemblymember hosted a Public Charge Forum at Davidson Community Center on March 21st, 2019, at which New York Immigration Coalition spoke about common fears surrounding Public Charge and what should be a concern for those who are undocumented. Mr. Peters also announced that GMHC and the International Rescue Committee will be providing assistance with United States Citizenship application once a month. The next round of 10 appointments are available on Friday, April 12th, 2019 between 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The services will be available in English, Spanish and Arabic. Individuals who are interested are encouraged to call (718) 933-6909 to make an appointment. He also informed us that free tenant services are available at their district office on Thursdays from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Lastly, Mr. Peters invited community groups to share information about events in the district to be included on their new newsletter.

Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera

Ms. Suarez also informed the community about the passed NYS budget. The NYS budget can be viewed online.

Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed the community that the Comptroller Stringer conducted an investigation that revealed huge increases in ICE Enforcement in the City of New York. Comptroller Stringer is dedicated to address immigration issues by seeking support from the City and State to aid universal legal representation and to assist detained immigrants afford bond payments.

Steven Ochoa, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake

Mr. Ochoa reported on the passed New York State budget. The NYS budget can be viewed online. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the district office at (718) 538-3829.

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Marc Cruz, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

Mr. Cruz reported that the Assemblymember passed her first bill related to lactation issues. He also emphasized the importance of the U.S. Census, which is approaching in 2020. A higher number of census submissions results in more accurate data and higher funding. Additionally, Assemblywoman Reyes is a nurse by trade and is pushing for safe staffing as she argues there currently are not enough nurses compared to the number of patients. The member's office is located at 1973 Westchester Avenue.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by St. Barnabas Hospital on a Community Health Needs Assessment for Bronx Community Board #6

Ninfa Segarra, JD is the new Senior Vice President of Community Affairs at St. Barnabas Hospital. Every three years nonprofit hospitals are required to perform a Community Health Needs Assessment and prepare a community service plan. In order to successfully complete the task, community must be involved. Montefiore created a survey that St. Barnabas Health distributed at the meeting. The result of the survey is a document that is registered with the state and an annual follow-up for the next three years.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez encouraged attendees to fill out the survey for St. Barnabas Hospital and return it at the end of the meeting.
- Mr. Sanchez thanked NYPD Explorers and other community groups for attending the April 6th It's My Park Day at Tremont Park. More than 50 volunteers attended and helped prepare the park for Spring usage.
- On Monday, April 8th, the Senior Citizens Outreach Committee hosted a free watercolor class with Bronx River Art Center. Other community groups are able to host watercolor classes as well.
- Starting on Saturday, April 20, there will be a series of four financial literacy workshops provided by Popular Community Bank. The workshops are free and will begin at 10 AM at West Farms Library, located at 2085 Honeywell Avenue.
- On Saturday, May 18, Bronx Community Board #6 and Friends of Tremont Park will be hosting a 5K Run and Walk for Lupus Awareness. The registration fee is \$25, and all proceeds will be donated to Lupus Research Alliance.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty (20) members.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chairperson Capers announced that Committee meetings are always the third week of the month. Unless otherwise specified, all committee meetings will begin at 6:30 PM and take place at the Community Board's district office at 1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of March 13, 2019 was made by Ms. Virginia Bird and seconded by Mr. Gil Simmons and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the April 10, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:07 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Jannie Armstrong and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Leon
Community Associate

Carly Wine
Community Associate

ATTENDANCE AND VOTING RECORDING FOR BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2019

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2019	ADJOURNMENT			
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes			
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes			
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes			
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes			
Nicole Carter						
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes			
Chris Collazo						
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes			
Diana Diaz	Present					
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes			
Frank J. Franz						
Eduardo Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes			
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes			
Lanell Gardenhire	Present	Yes	Yes			
Audrey Harden						
Laura James						
Frank Kolovic						
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes			
Michael Nelson	Present	Yes	Yes			
Sara Nunez-Mejia						
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes			
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence					
Marilyn Oliver	Present	Yes	Yes			
Victoria Pamas	Leave of Absence					
Rosa Peraza						
Paul Ramirez						
Hiram Ratliff						
Wendy Rodriguez						
Angel Rosario						
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes			
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes			
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes			
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes			
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes			