



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

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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, February 13, 2019

Members Present:

Jannie Armstrong, Clarita Bailon, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Nelson Chimilo, Claudette Coles, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Maria Garcia, Audrey Harden, Frank Kolovic, Maria Latimer, Floretta O'Brien, Marilyn Oliver, Rosa Peraza, Lisa Sanchez, Angel Santana, Gil Simmons, Carrie Taft and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

Stephannie Addo-Zuniga, Christopher Collazo, Diana Diaz (Leave of Absence), Eduardo Garcia, Lanell Gardenhire, Laura James, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Michael Nelson, Marie Louise Ocran (Leave of Absence), Victoria Pamas (Leave of Absence), Paul Ramirez, Hiram Ratliff, Wendy Rodriguez, Angel Rosario, and Michael Yu.

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres
Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Ramon Cabral, representing US Congressman José Serrano
Samaris Gross, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Heidi Salazar, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo
Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera
Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes
Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The February 13, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held at St. Joseph School, which is located at 1946 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York, and was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Jannie Armstrong.

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III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Cynthia Centeno, representing Public School 205

Ms. Centeno informed the community of the need for Wi-Fi in the lower level of Public School 205.

District Manager John Sanchez advised Ms. Centeno to contact Council Member Ritchie Torres.

Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathan informed the community of a touring performance of Shakespeare's play *Much Ado About Nothing* that will be held at the Bronx River Art Center. The performance is on Thursday, February 21, 2019. The doors open at 3:00 PM and the performance will begin at 4:00 PM.

Paola Martinez, representing the Department of Small Business Services

Ms. Martinez announced the Department of Small Business Services' partnership with the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Chamber on the Go to provide basic tools needed to promote your business online and in social media. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, in the McGinley Center Room 237 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Celeste Finlay, representing the Bronx Parent Housing Network

Ms. Finlay informed the community of an incident involving domestic abuse and a long response time from the police. Ms. Finlay requested more information about the incident and the cause of the delay.

Sergeant Franklin Bonilla of the 48th Police Precinct responded to Ms. Finlay's request and offered to investigate the incident further.

Max Resnick, of the Local Voices Network

Mr. Resnick informed the community of the partnership of the Local Voices Network with the Tremont Library and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. The Local Voices Network will be sponsoring a program to engage the community through a digital conversation platform. Mr. Resnick invited community members to attend an upcoming planning session on February 28, 2019 at 5:00 PM at the Tremont Library.

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:

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- **Mr. Sanchez announced that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. is 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.**
- **Mr. Sanchez informed the community that Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. is supporting the New York State Nursing Association’s “Healthcare Justice for All” campaign. The campaign demands safe staffing and fair funding as a part of a new contract at the public hospitals in New York City.**
- **Mr. Sanchez announced that the Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr.’s State of the Borough Address is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 11:30 AM at Samuel Gompers Career and Technical Education High School located at 455 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10455.**
- **Mr. Sanchez invited the community on behalf of Bronx Borough President Diaz Jr. to celebrate Dominican Heritage Month at the Beverly Hills Manor, 1700 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10453 on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Sanchez invited the community to RSVP by calling (718) 590-3989.**

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

Romina Enea, representing Council Member Ritchie Torres

Ms. Enea gave us an update on Council Member Torres’ legislative priorities. Council Member Torres’ proposed to a bill to ban cashless establishments. This bill would prohibit retail establishments, as defined in the bill, from adopting policies in which they refuse to accept payment in cash from consumers. The bill will be heard in City Council on Thursday, February 14, 2019. Further, Council Member Torres is advocating for a web portal in which constituents can view Department of Investigations’ reports and track if the recommendations are being followed and enforced. Ms. Enea also informed the community of the official street renaming at 183rd Street and Bathgate Avenue in honor of Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Feliz. The street renaming will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Josue Melendez, representing Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr.

Mr. Melendez reported that Council Member Salamanca Jr. is introduced a bill that will require cosmetologists to receive training by the City on how to recognize signs of domestic abuse and violence. Mr. Melendez informed the community that Council Member Salamanca Jr. is looking for an individual to fill the Director of Communications position and for college students to participate in his Winter/Spring Fellowship Program to serve as fellows. He also informed us that Council Member Salamanca Jr. is hosting a Community Transit Town Hall to discuss our transportation system and our public transportation needs with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Department of Transportation. The town hall will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:30 PM at Public School 93.

Ramon Cabral, representing United States Congressman José Serrano

Mr. Cabral informed the community of Congressman Serrano’s Black History Month celebration at Hostos Community College in the Savoy Multipurpose Room on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Cabral announced that Congressman Serrano is making U.S. Postal Service efficiency one of his priorities. Mr. Cabral urged the community member to call Congressman Serrano’s office at (718) 620-

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0084 to voice their complaints about local post offices.

Samaris Gross, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda

Ms. Gross informed the community about the services provided in their offices such as housing, health, education, and senior services. Ms. Gross announced that Senator Sepulveda is co-hosting a Valentine's Day Celebration for the elderly on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at the Andrew Jackson Houses Center. She also announced that there would be free blood pressure checks with Metro Community Health Center on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at their district office.

Heidi Salazar, representing NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo

Ms. Salazar informed the community of legislation that Assemblyman Pichardo supports, including the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act and the Reproductive Health Act. Ms. Salazar also informed that Assemblyman Pichardo's office successfully helped restore gas to a building located at 1930 Grand Concourse that had previously not had gas for a year. Although this location is outside of our district, Ms. Salazar wanted to inform us that their offices assist with housing services. Ms. Salazar announced that a free notary services are available at the Assemblyman Pichardo's office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Ms. Salazar also announced a program that's being offered at Assemblyman Pichardo's office on beginning Friday, March 22, 2019 where program participants can be assisted during the application process for United States Citizenship application. The program will be held from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM, and constituents are encouraged to call (718) 933-6909 to make an appointment. Ms. Salazar reminded the community that there is a Tenant Specialist at the Assemblyman's office every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Charisse Suarez, representing NYS Assemblyman José Rivera

Ms. Suarez reminded the community that there is a Tenant Assistance Program at Assemblyman Rivera's district office every Friday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and free notary service Monday through Friday. Ms. Suarez encouraged the community to call their district office to make an appointment.

Justin Westbrook-Lowery, representing NYS Assemblywoman Karines Reyes

Mr. Westbrook-Lowery announced that Assemblywoman Reyes was officially sworn into office in Albany on January 9, 2019, and she had her local swearing in ceremony at the Bronx Zoo on January 12, 2019. Mr. Westbrook-Lowery also announced that Assemblywoman Reyes voted for legislation to expand democracy, including a bill allowing same day voter registration and allowing sixteen and seventeen year olds to pre-register to vote. Further, Assemblywoman Reyes voted for the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act and the Dream Act. Mr. Westbrook-Lowery also announced that Assemblywoman Reyes voted for legislation to prevent gun violence legislation to protect child victims of sexual abuse. Mr. Westbrook-Lowery informed the community of the committees to which Assemblywoman Reyes was appointed, including: Labor, Housing, Aging, Social Services, and Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Mr. Westbrook-Lowery also informed the community of Assemblywoman Reyes' budget priorities, including more funding for the New York City Housing Authority and more funding for safety net hospitals. Mr. Westbrook-Lowery informed the community that Assemblywoman Reyes' district office is located at 1973 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York and phone number is (718) 931-2620.

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Sergeant Franklin Bonilla, representing the 48th Police Precinct

Sergeant Bonilla announced the creation of a new program called Safe Horizon that provides free lock changes and free counseling to victims of domestic abuse. To participate in the program, Sergeant Bonilla encouraged the community to contact the 48th Police Precinct. Sergeant Bonilla also announced to the community that the 48th Police Precinct is offering orders of protection at the precinct itself; these orders of protection can only be issued against family members and to domestic violence victims. Anyone can go to the 48th Police Precinct and request an order of protection, not just constituents of the 48th Precinct.

Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

Mr. Ortiz informed the community of an audit report of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) conducted by the Comptroller's office. The Comptroller's office concluded that did not have a clear plan in place to track reasons for train delays. The Comptroller suggested that the MTA create categories for reasons for delays and that MTA employees should be trained on how to properly report and categorize delays. Mr. Ortiz also informed the community that the Comptroller is trying to make apartment deposits fairer for New York City residents. Mr. Ortiz further informed us that the Office of the Comptroller is accepting applications for a summer internship. The internship is paid based on education and job experience, and there is opportunity to extend the internship beyond the traditional six week duration.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Natalie Mendell, representing the Department of Small Business Services

Ms. Mendell presented on the Department of Small Business Services' Transform Tremont Grant Program. The Transform Tremont Grant Program is a program that helps business owners on East Tremont Avenue between Prospect Avenue and Southern Boulevard improve their storefronts. The program has a total grant pool of 200,000 dollars to allocate to eligible participants for storefront improvements. Participants are eligible to receive up to 50,000 dollars towards their storefront improvements. The program offers a 3:1 match, meaning that the business owner must pay for the renovation in full, and then the business owner will be reimbursed by the grant for 75 percent of the total project cost after completion. Ms. Mendell emphasized that this is not a loan program, and business owners do not need to pay interest on the money they receive. Eligible storefront improvements include, but are not limited to: facade restoration, new signage and awning, exterior lighting installation, improvements to increase accessibility, and health and safety improvements. The grant requirements include: pre-approval and contract, at least two bids, five year maintenance agreement, and meeting design requirements.

Applications can be found online at www.nyc.gov/storefronts or can be picked up from the Department of Small Business Services mobile unit on East Tremont Avenue on March 12, 2019. Applications are due March 18, 2019. Ms. Mendell encouraged community members to email storefronts@sbs.nyc.gov if they have any questions.

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Presentation by Jose Quintana, representing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mr. Quintana of the Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center presented on the National Fitness Campaign's project of building Fitness Courts around the country. First, Mr. Quintana gave an overview of health statistics in Bronx Community Board #6, highlighting Bronx Community Board #6's low physical activity and high obesity and diabetes rates. Mr. Quintana gave a history of the National Fitness Campaign, mentioning that the first Fitness Courts were installed in 1979, but the design was improved in 2012. Fitness Courts are areas in which community residents can engage in physical activity in a public space. The new design includes a carbon steel and concrete construction that can last 25-50 years. The Fitness Courts require between 1,000-2,000 dollars in maintenance annually. Mr. Quintana would like to have a Fitness Court installed in Bronx Community Board #6. Next steps for installation include: creating site maps, identifying stakeholders and sponsors, breaking ground in 2019, and launching the Fitness Court in 2020.

For more information, contact Jose Quintana at jquintan@health.nyc.gov or (718) 508-0632.

VII. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Sanchez commended the Economic Development Committee for working with My Money Workshop to host five weeks of financial literacy workshops at the Bronx Community Board #6's district office.
- Mr. Sanchez informed us that he met with a group of Fordham University freshmen to discuss the importance of community collaboration. Mr. Sanchez also called attention to two Fordham University students who were in attendance at the board meeting.
- Mr. Sanchez announced to the community that the Stella Adler Studio of Acting will perform Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Bronx River Art Center on February 21, 2019 at 4:00 PM.
- Mr. Sanchez announced that on March 5, 2019 the Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a community input meeting on the renovation of Quarry Ballfield at the Monterey Community Center located at 2100 Monterey Avenue at 6:00 PM.
- Mr. Sanchez reminded the community that Bronx Community Board #6 is still accepting applicants for the first annual scholarship competition for high school seniors. Bronx Community Board #6 will be giving away five students a \$1,000 scholarship. The application deadline is April 1, 2019.

Ms. Rosa Peraza requested that board members be given a copy of Bronx Community Board #6's Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget. Ms. Peraza also requested that the personal salaries be included in the monthly board expenses that accompanied by the District Manager's report enclosures as it has been done in the previous months.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the presence of a quorum of twenty-one (21) members.

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X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chairperson Evonne Capers also asked Committee Chairs of those committees with an upcoming or event to make an announcement.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Margarita Espinosa Committee Chair

Ms. Espinosa announced that It's May Park Day clean-up will be on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Happy Land Monument (East Tremont Avenue and Southern Boulevard). She also announced that the Happy Land 29th Memorial will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church located at 1900 Crotona Parkway. Procession towards vigil at the Happy Land monument following mass ceremony.

Other: Ms. Rosa Peraza, Board Member

Ms. Peraza requested that committee reports be given at the community board meetings since they are not provided prior to the meeting. This request was made in order for board members to give suggestions and/or recommendations to the committees. In addition, Ms. Peraza questioned the attendance of the Housing and Land-Use Committee meeting of December 20, 2018. Ms. Peraza expressed that board members are not attending the committee meetings.

Chairperson Capers informed Ms. Peraza that board members are advised to attend committee meetings. Committee meetings are announced at the community boards meetings, committee reports, and website and through email notifications every month.

XI. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of January 9, 2019 was made by Ms. Virginia Bird seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.
2. A motion to provide a letter of support to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in favor of a fitness court being located in Bronx Community Board #6 was made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Maria Garcia and adopted by a vote of twenty in favor, zero opposed and one abstention.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the February 13, 2019 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM pursuant to a motion made by Mr. Gil Simmons, seconded by Ms. Margarita Espinosa and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-one 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 FEBRUARY 13, 2019

NAME	ATTENDANCE	MINUTES OF JANAUARY 9, 2019	LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DOHMH FITNESS COURT	ADJOURMENT			
Stephanie Addo							
Jannie Armstrong	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Clarita Bailon	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Virginia Bird	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Evonne Capers	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Nicole Carter	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Nelson Chimilio	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Chris Collazo							
Claudette Coles	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Diana Diaz	Leave of Absence						
Margarita Espinosa	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Frank J. Franz	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Eduardo Garcia							
Maria Garcia	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Lanell Gardenhire							
Audrey Harden	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Laura James							
Frank Kolovic	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Maria Latimer	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Michael Nelson							
Sara Nunez-Mejia							
Floretta A. O'Brien	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Marie Louise Ocran	Leave of Absence						
Marilyn Oliver	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Victoria Pamas	Leave of Absence						
Rosa Peraza	Present	Abstain	Abstain	Yes			
Paul Ramirez							
Hiram Ratliff							
Wendy Rodriguez							
Angel Rosario							
Lisa Sanchez	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Angel Santana	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Gil Simmons	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Carrie Taft	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Jacquetta Whaley	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Michael Yu							