



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

VACANT
District Manager

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6
Meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Members Present:

Clarita Bailon, Evonne Capers, Nicole Carter, Sadija Cekovic, Margarita Espinosa, Frank Franz, Lanell Gardenhire, Marilyn Gurley, Julisa Hamilton, Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano, Matthew Martinez, Francene Miller, Floretta O'Brien, Lamont Parker, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Paul Ramirez, Carmen Rivera, Kristine Rivera, Gil Simmons, and Jacquetta Whaley.

Members Absent:

John Barczak, Virginia Bird, Michelle Bialeck, Cornell Brown, Milagros Cancel, Michael Caraballo, Darwin Collazo, Diana Diaz, Maria Garcia, Audrey Harden, Angela Hernandez, Laura James, Asana Lloyd, Michael Nelson, Rev. Marilyn Oliver, Maria Ruiz Gutierrez, Lisa Sanchez, Divine Sikanku, Lillie Steed, and Noorjahan Wells.

Elected Officials Present:

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Elected Officials Representatives Present:

Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera
Emilia Cabrera, representing New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda
Adrian Cacho, representing New York State Assemblymember Chantel Reyes
Leon Tulton, representing New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The February 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was held via Zoom Audio and Video Conference meeting ID 983 5847 3593 and via Zoom Video at <https://zoom.us/j/98358473593> and was called to order at approximately 6:33 PM by Chairperson Evonne Capers.

II. INVOCATION

The meeting's invocation was delivered by Board Member Jacquetta Whaley.

III. COMMUNITY PERIOD

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

Carrie Taft, representing Hope And Victory Evolves (H.A.V.E.)

Ms. Taft informed us about the Tenant Protection benefits of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). She informed us that although the funds have been exhausted, the tenant protection benefits are still in effect. For instance, tenants are protected from eviction under the program and rent cannot be increased from when the application was submitted. Tenants can use provisionally approved documents for housing court if needed. Ms. Taft also informed us that the State funded programs are still available for households with an income of above 80% AMI. Federally funded program is for households with incomes at or below 80% AMI For more information, Carrie Taft can be contacted at (917) 226 - 7960.

Gail Nathan, representing the Bronx River Art Center

Ms. Nathans announced that they have a show called *Among Women: Contemporary Art from Serbia* curated by Rachel Klipa, which is being presented until Saturday, February 26, 2022. This exhibition is the second in their 2021-22 season of exhibitions at the Bronx River Art Center that serendipitously features mostly women artists and curators, which is an indicator of a new order of gender equality in the arts. Anyone is welcome to come during gallery hours, which is from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM from Monday to Friday and 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM on Saturdays. They are still conducting classes in-person through sanitizing, distancing and vaccinations. From February 21, 2022 to February 25, 2022, when students are off from school, they will have art camp, each day offering various workshops on different media (graphic design) 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM classes. Reduced rate to \$9/2-hour class; \$17 for a full day of classes (2 classes) including lunch; \$45 for 3 full days; \$70 for 5 full days. Flyers will be distributed through a mailing list and available on their website. Performance on Feb 26 by Diane Varo, Great Jazz pianist; playing from 5 PM - 6 PM; performances are suggested compensations.

Mario Figueroa, representing Drew Gardens

Mr. Figueroa informed us that Drew Gardens located at 1070 East Tremont Avenue has been locked down by the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Figueroa requested assistance from the community board.

Community Coordinator Carla Leon will be reaching out to the New York State Department of Transportation for more information on this matter.

Amiel Lucre, Community Resident

Ms. Lucre requested assistance from the community board in regards to the membership and procedures at Drew Gardens.

IV. BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bronx Borough Vanessa L. Gibson's report was presented by her Community Board Liaison, Ms. Alexis Ruiz. The report included, but was not limited to, the following information:

- Ms. Ruiz informed us that the Borough President Gibson's Community Board Report for the month of February is available.
- Ms. Ruiz also informed us that Community Board membership and reappointment applications are due on Friday, March 4, 2022.
- Ms. Ruiz also announced that Borough President Gibson is hosting a Dominican Heritage Month celebration on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:30 PM at the Grand Slam Banquet Hall located at 478 East Tremont Avenue.

V. ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

New York State Senator Luis Sepulveda

Senator Sepulveda announced that we are in budget season. He is fighting for money for our schools; money to end tax incentives for economic development; money for affordable housing not with area median income, which makes it impossible for people in our communities to afford housing. Data has shown that bail reform has worked. Increased gun violence is a result of increased unemployment, moratorium, decreased mental health and continuing worsening data of all the communities. There has been a public hearing with the mayor and New York City Council Speaker, where Bronx elected officials talked about gun violence and how to address the issue. Not a single gun was bought or constructed in New York. The local government is trying to take a holistic approach to address gun violence and where resources should be concentrated. If you make less than \$72,000, then you can file taxes for free. The Homeowner Assistance Funds deadline has been extended. The office is currently open to constituents. Senator Sepulveda spoke with the leaders of Drew Gardens and has promised to speak to those individuals preventing others from enjoying the park. Individuals who are interested in receiving further information and constituent assistance, can contact his office by telephone at (718) 991-3161 or by email at team@senatorsepulveda.com. Senator Sepulveda can also be reached at his mobile at (347) 582-8173.

Francisco Aquino Ramirez, representing New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera

Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that the Homeowners Assistance Program's deadline has been extended to February 16, 2022. The office has been helping with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the Homeowners Assistance Program application, and SCRIE and DRIE applications. Mr. Aquino Ramirez informed us that their office is operating in-person by appointments only. Individuals can contact their district office by telephone at (718) 933-2034.

Adrian Cacho, representing Assemblymember Chantel Jackson

Mr. Cacho informed the community that the office had two successful masks, hand sanitizer and covid testing kits giveaways. If constituents have questions on these sites or getting covid testing kits, they can reach out to the office. Assemblymember Jackson is on the Housing Committee and constituents

can provide information on housing issues, which would be relayed to the Assemblywoman. The office is assisting with Emergency Rental Assistance Programs and Homeowners Assistance Fund applications; even though the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is no longer providing funds, filing the application provides some protection to tenants. The weekly newsletters have additional information. Constituents can call to be added to the weekly newsletter.

Leon Tulton, representing Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia

Assemblymember Tapia is the successor of Assemblymember Victor Pichardo. The office is still located at 2175 Jerome Avenue. The office is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM and Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. They are taking in constituents by appointment only but allow for walk-ins on Wednesdays. The office is assisting with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program applications. The office can be contacted via telephone at (718) 933 - 2613 and via email at tultonl@nyassembly.gov.

VI. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The district manager's report was presented by Ms. Carla Leon. The report included the following information:

- Ms. Leon announced that Bronx Community Board #6 is hosting virtual financial literacy workshops in collaboration with MyMoney Workshop on Saturdays for the month of February. The workshop will start at 10:00 AM via Zoom Video Conference. Individuals interested in participating in the classes are asked to register by emailing bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org. After registering, individuals will receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom Video Conference information to join the workshops.

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Evonne Capers informed us that the deadline for the District Manager position has been extended to Friday, February 25, 2022.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports were sent to the board members by email and are available on Bronx Community Board #6's website. Chairperson Evonne Capers requested that we read the reports at our leisure.

VIII. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

A roll call attendance was taken confirming the absence of a quorum with the presence of twenty-two (22) members.

IX. ADOPTION OF MOTIONS

- 1. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of December 8, 2021 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Carmen Rivera and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, one opposition and zero abstentions.**
- 2. A motion to adopt the minutes of Bronx Community Board #6's meeting of January 12, 2021 was made by Mr. Lamont Parker, seconded by Ms. Floretta O'Brien and adopted by a vote of twenty-one in favor, one opposition and zero abstentions.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, the February 9, 2022 meeting of Bronx Community Board #6 was adjourned at approximately 7:13 PM pursuant to a motion made by Ms. Carmen Rivera, seconded by Mr. Lamont Parker, and unanimously adopted by acclamation (twenty-two in favor, zero opposed and zero abstention).

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Leon
Community Coordinator**

**Sanzida Talukder
Community Associate**

