

Law Rules and Ethics Committee
Minutes September 4, 2018
Minutes

Attendance Committee Members: Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Dan Padernacht, Bill Stone, Carlos Wilcox, Herb Young

Attendance Non-Members: Rosemary Ginty, Paul Ellis, Charles Moerdler

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05
- II. Approval of June minutes
In favor: Martin Wolpoff, Dan Padernacht, Bill Stone, Carlos Wilcox, Herb Young
Abstention: Sylvia Alexander
- III. Moment of Silence for Irving Ladimer
The committee observed a moment of silence in memory of Irving who had hoped to attend the June meeting.
- IV. Discussion of City Council legislative spreadsheet
The spreadsheet prepared by Rosemary Ginty was distributed and reviewed
- V. Discussion of COIB findings
 - A. Copies of the latest COIB findings were distributed
 - B. Chairman notified committee that, upon his request, the COIB forwarded their copy of the Conflict of Interest rules prepared for community board members. Upon recommendation from the board's executive committee, electronic copies were forwarded to all board members.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Need for Bylaws changes
 1. Responsibilities of Board Treasurer.
 - a. Recently the bylaw was amended based to include the need for the treasurer to be trained and become a community board signatory for purchases and payments under the City's computerized FMS program
 - b. More recently, the City ruled that only City employees could be trained and cleared for utilizing the FMS system
 - c. As a result, the requirement that the Board treasure be trained in FMS and to approve all payments needs to be withdrawn. The committee voted for the following amendment: (section crossed out to be removed).

Sec. 8 – The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of the Board. The Treasurer shall monitor board finances, maintain the Board's financial records and oversee budget modifications and expenditures. The Treasurer shall submit a written report to the Board each month. ~~(and shall approve all payments of the Board, pursuant to methodologies prescribed by the City of New York. If the Treasurer is incapacitated another individual selected by the Chair may approve the payments of the Board.)~~ In the absence of the treasurer, the Chairperson may designate any other officer of the Board to act as treasurer on a temporary basis. In addition, the treasurer shall have such powers and perform such duties as shall be assigned to the treasurer by the Chairperson of the Board.

Vote in favor: Martin Wolpoff, Sylvia Alexander, Dan Padernacht, Bill Stone, Carlos Wilcox, Herb Young

2. Merging of Education and Libraries and Cultural Affairs committees
Vote in favor: Martin Wolpoff, Sylvia Alexander, Dan Padernacht, Bill Stone, Carlos Wilcox, Herb Young
 3. Re-casting of the composition of the Land Use committee
The committee once again took up this issue by considering the following issues:
 - a. Should LU be a committee of the whole or a standing committee?
 - b. What is a quorum for the LU committee?
 - c. Can non-LU members vote on ULURP issues?
 - d. Will LU membership count toward the two committee requirements?
 - e. Can LU exist as a hybrid, under certain conditions be either a Committee of the whole or a standing committee
 4. Charles Moerdler volunteered to work on language for a possible amendment
- B. Guidelines for naming streets to honor businesses – Item tabled to next month

VII. New Business

- A. Charter Revision Commissions
 1. The Mayor's Charter Revision Commission issued its final report offering three resolutions to appear on the November ballot
 - a. Changes in Campaign Finance
 - b. Establishing a Citywide Office Civic Engagement
 - c. Establishing term limits for community board membership
 - d. At the suggestion of the Executive Board, the committee proposed the following resolution to be presented at the September 12th Board meeting. Members of the Executive Board will be provided to opportunity to review the resolution and offer comments.

Community Board 8, Bronx, Joins with the Borough Presidents of the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island in asking voters to reject the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission's attempt to undermine the discretion of the Borough Presidents.

In calling for community board member term limits they are questioning the Borough Presidents' judgements in selecting who best represents local communities. In addition, term limits prevent the development of expertise over time. For example, in areas such as land use, community boards would lose the knowledge of local leaders who know the history of developers who have demonstrated a lack of concern for the needs and benefit of the community.

In addition, in the Revision Commission's intent to establish an Office of Civic Engagement is designed to remove from the Borough Presidents an area for which their local support and expertise are needed by the community boards. Creation of a centralized city-wide bureaucracy will limit the support available to the local community boards.

In favor: Martin Wolpoff, Sylvia Alexander, I. William Stone, Carlos Wilcox, Herb Young

Abstention: Dan Padernacht

2. The City Council's Charter Revision Commission will be holding its first hearing on September 12 in the Bronx.
3. Memo from Carlos Wilcox – Chairman thanked Carlos for his independent research into the Mayor's Charter Revision proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35