

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 24, 2014 RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVE. – 2ND FLOOR

Committee Members present:

Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Arlene Feldmeier
Irving Ladimer
Dana Lennon
Dan Padernacht
Joyce Pilsner
Anthony Piscitelli
Robert Press
I. William Stone
Martin Wolpoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the March 2014 committee meeting were adopted 9-0-2.

S. Alexander, A. Feldmeier, R. Ginty, I. Ladimer, D. Padernacht, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, I.W. Stone, M. Wolpoff voting aye.
D. Lennon and J. Pilsner abstaining.

The entire committee gave a warm welcome-back to Mr. Irving Ladimer, who is not only this committee's former chair but also its constant advisor and guide.

Legislative Review – Intro 28

At the March LRE meeting, the committee recommended that, if the Executive Committee wanted to take a position, it follow the opinions of other community boards i.e., support the concept while asking for the technical support and financing necessary to implement this unfunded mandate.

At the Executive Committee, the Chair Robert Fanuzzi requested the LRE adopt a resolution for board action. He sent the following information to be included in these minutes:

At the last Borough Board meeting, I had the opportunity to observe and converse with the professional crew that was handling webcasting for the meeting. The crew consisted of three, with clearly defined responsibilities and specialties, a large tripod, a large camera, and at least one black box for either accessories, recording, or transmission purposes. (There could have been more). I talked with the operators of the machinery and were impressed by their grasp of the information technology associated

with webcasting as well as their “workaround” strategies when operating from meeting spaces without cable or wireless transmission.

My conclusion is this: that webcasting is a highly professionalized service that under no circumstances should be left to a community board. It would misrepresent the work of both parties—the community board and the webcasting professionals—to assume that such an operation can be passed from one to the other. It is further my opinion that as Board Chair, community boards should be treated as any other city agency, paired with appropriate webcasting vendor if and when required by law, and not be treated as a grab bag for community related activities. We do certain things and we do them well. We are not a webcasting studio.

I personally wholeheartedly support webcasting. With webcasting professionals.

The issue was discussed and the following resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New York City Council introduced legislation (Intro 28) requiring that all community boards record their monthly public meetings in digital video format, and

WHEREAS, such meetings and hearings are to be webcast live, where practicable, and archived and made available to the public on the community board or city’s website not more than seventy-two hours after adjournment of the meeting or hearing recorded, and

WHEREAS, webcasting and archival video increase public access to government resulting in increased transparency and community involvement, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation does not provide any capital or expense funding or technical staff necessary for the required effort;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 supports the purpose of Intro 28 to increase public access and transparency to government by requiring that community boards webcast and archive their monthly meetings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends that the City Council not adopt Intro 28 unless and until sufficient and supplemental

technical and financial resources necessary to meet the requirements of the proposed legislation be provided to community boards by the City of New York.

Legislative Review – Status of Council Legislation

An updated list of selected bill introductions for NYC council session was reviewed by the committee. As suggested by the committee, the list now includes notations for bills introduced by councilmembers representing community board 8. Hearings and any actions will be tracked and reported.

Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB”) Published Decisions

The chair presented an updated list of COIB decisions for March 2014. Also presented was an updated list of “key phrases” for each opinion to allow for easier retrieval.

Old Business/New Business

There were no reports under old business and no new business to discuss.

There will be a May meeting, if necessary, held on Thursday, May 22nd at the Riverdale Mental Health 2nd floor conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee