

**MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2014
RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVE. – 2ND FLOOR**

Committee Members present:

Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Arlene Feldmeier
Irving Ladimer
Anthony Piscitelli
Robert Press
Martin Wolpoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

There being no quorum, the minutes of the December committee meeting were not considered.

Legislative Review – Status of Council Legislation

The 2010-2013 NYC council session ended and a new session for 2014-2017 started. A few bills were enacted at the end of session with some signed into law by the mayor and some vetoed. The following summarizes these actions:

- Intro 876A increases time for a revocable consents, upon renewal from 2 years to 4 years. It was signed by the mayor on 12/30/13. This bill was one of a series of bills concerning sidewalk cafes. The “Sunday open at 10 am” bill was passed last year. This bill is one of the series. The information has been sent to the Traffic & Transportation chair.
- Intro 732A requires speed bumps adjacent to public schools. It was signed by the mayor on 12/12/13. This has been sent to Education chair.
- Intro 1162A requires certain food establishments (restaurants, retail stores, street fairs, etc. to dispose organic waste through a commercial waste carrier that composts. It was signed by the mayor on 12/30/13. This will be sent to Economic Development chair.
- Intro 859 requires the NYPD to report to the Council on crimes in parks over an acre based on a schedule over time. It was approved by the Council on 12/19/13 but vetoed by the mayor on 12/27/13. This was discussed with the Parks

Committee on 1/22/14. (Additional information came to the chair today – the new Council can override a mayoral veto made during the last council session.)

The only bill introduced in the new council is the expansion of sick pay to businesses employing 5 or more employees.

Legislative Review – Intro 948

Intro 948 was not enacted by the council. The issue has been discussed with Councilmember Koppell and many and various staff members at the City Council. The block to passage concerned the need for a Charter change to deal with concessions. Unlike most city agencies that have their powers defined in the Administrative Code, “concessions” are only defined in the Charter. Therefore city council legislation would not be sufficient to change their processes, including time for advertisement of hearings.

We discussed two possibilities to forward the intent of the original bill. A new bill might give community boards more time for revocable consents, assuming the facts warrant it. Also, the possibility of a council resolution was discussed. Such a resolution would request the city agency to amend their rules concerning the amount of time a community board would have to consider a concession application.

These suggestions will be discussed with the new councilmember.

Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB”) Published Decisions

The chair presented a list of COIB decisions from December 2013. Also presented was a list of “key phrases” for each opinion to allow for easier retrieval, as was recommended at the December committee meeting.

Old Business - Community Committee Handbook

At the last meeting, there was a discussion the DRAFT Reference Handbook for community committee members.

The chair brought the Reference Handbook to the January executive committee meeting. After a discussion, certain suggestions were made by members of the executive committee. A redrafted document was discussed and some changes made. In brief, they concerned the list of board committees, their mission statements, the method by which individuals may apply for membership on the community board, a statement about prohibited actions and a statement notifying CCM’s that they must continue their attendance in order to maintain their status.

The Handbook will be finalized and brought back to the executive committee.

There will be a February meeting only if necessary. A meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Riverdale Mental Health 2nd floor conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The chair thanks Anthony Piscitelli for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee