

Bronx Community Board No. 8

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee

Minutes

Meeting, June 30, 2015

7:05 P.M.

Attendance: Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Arlene Feldmeier, Rosemary Ginty, Irving Ladimer, Demetrius McCord, Robert Press, Herb Young

1. Minutes of the April meeting were approved with six in favor, Martin Wolpoff and Demetrius McCord abstaining because they were not at the meeting. There was no meeting in May, the date being ceded to land use. Chairman thanked those attending for their understanding for the accommodation made for the land use committee to have their meeting on our regular June date.
2. The Chairman noted that, as of this time, the following have signed up for the committee for next year;
 1. Martin Wolpoff
 2. Sylvia Alexander
 3. Arlene Feldmeier
 4. Phil Friedman
 5. Rosemary Ginty
 6. Irving Ladimer
 7. Charles Moerdler
 8. Robert Press
 9. I.W. Stone
 10. Herb Young

3. City Council update
Rosemary Ginty provided an update of the spreadsheet tracking bills submitted in the City Council. She highlighted bills recently signed by the Mayor and recent submissions.
4. New COIB decisions
 - A. Chair distributed latest Conflict of Interests Board (COIB) published decisions. One concerned the Bronx Deputy Borough President.
 - B. Chair thanked committee members for their understanding and support concerning his having raised from the floor, at the May full Board meeting, the City Council's bill Charter revision to establish term limits for community board members. His resolution to advise our three Council members of the sense of the board in opposition to the submitted bill was handily supported.
 - C. The Chair also distributed copies of a memo from the Borough President's office concerning the ineligibility of any board member to participate, in any way, in the selection of a district manager when a board member is related to a candidate for the position. The memo was written in response to an inquiry from another Bronx board.
5. Discussion of approved by-laws approval process
 - A. Committee reviewed the process from working committee to full LRE committee to executive committee that then led to full board approval of the amended community board 8 by laws.
 - B. Chairman reminded all that the committee had agreed to return to the question of the future of a nominating committee following this year's experience. The issue had been could the nominating committee function under the board's renewed dedication to the requirements of the Open Meetings Law (OML) and whether there should be a modification to the process or total elimination of the committee's function? Chair reminded committee members of modification of the board's guidelines. For the first time, we require all nominating committee meetings be publically advertised and open to anyone wishing to attend. We now "request" competing candidates for a position to absent themselves from competitor's nominating committee interviews.
 - C. Sylvia Alexander, a member of this year's nominating committee, reported that, although we followed all the requirements under OML, there was no significant difference from past years.
 - D. The committee felt no need, at this time, to further review the nominating committee process.
6. Working committee to review/revise the Board's Ethical Guidelines
Irving Ladimer, as the author/compiler of the board's current guidelines, which have been used and adopted/adapted by other boards, had committed himself to review/revise the Guidelines. He saw himself dedicating this summer to that purpose. He noted that there were several committee and board members to whom he would seek advice and guidance. Irving noted that our board has three driving documents: our

bylaws, our ethical guidelines and the new community committee member handbook authored/compiled by Rosemary Ginty. Chair noted the committee's appreciation for Irving's past service with respect to this project and offered whatever support Irving might need.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. Arlene Feldmeier requested guidance with respect to advising the SLA (State Liqueur Authority) when the full board is on vacation break. She noted that in the past, some board chairs approved the committee's recommendations on their own. The LRE committee felt that 1) the Land Use committee, operating in the summer on behalf of the board, could act on the Public safety committee's recommendation, 2) that it was better for any resolution to come with the sense of the full board, and 3) the executive committee should discuss and agree on the process.

B. Irving would like to see the LRE committee involved in a civics educational effort to inform the members of the community about their role in community board actions and in the role of citizens, in general. Chair asked committee members to mull over this during the summer

C. Chair shared new policy concerning the memorialization of committee minutes when there is a history of meetings without quorums.

9. Tentative Meeting Dates

Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 24 (Christmas Eve), Jan 22, Feb 25, Mar 4, Apr 23, May 26, June 23

Respectfully submitted by Martin Wolpoff, Chair

With additional notes provided by Arlene Feldmeier