

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2012
AT RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH,
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Board Members of the Committee present:

Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Andrew Cohen
Arlene G. Feldmeier
Irving Ladimer
Dana Lennon
Patricia Mullen
Dan Padernacht
Joyce Pilsner
Anthony Piscitelli
Robert Press
Ari A. Spett
I. William Stone
Maria Khury

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
The minutes of the May 24 meeting were unanimously approved.

Organizational Discussion

The Chair welcomed the members of this year's Law, Rules & Ethics Committee. She noted that this is the largest of the community board's committees with 18 members. This gives us an opportunity to share the workload. The Chair welcomed any comments on how the committee could be best organized and function well.

Mr. Stone has agreed to be the Vice Chair. The job of taking the minutes for the meeting will be rotated on a voluntary basis.

The meetings will be scheduled as needed and the location will alternate. The next meeting will be on October 25. There will be no November meeting.

Mr. Press asked whether the committee meetings are open to the public. It was noted that the Bylaws state that community members are not allowed to be members of the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee. It was also noted that the meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law. The unanimous consensus of the committee is that the meetings of the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee are open to the public except when the committee goes into executive session. The Chair offered to research the Open Meetings Law in regards to exemptions.

Issues Discussion for Community Board Year

The Chair asked committee members to consider what issues, projects or efforts the committee wanted to follow or accomplish this year. The Chair suggested three possibilities:

- I. A general review of the Ethical Guidance Manual for possible inclusion of policies and procedures already adopted by the board but not in the Manual. It was noted that the last time the Manual was amended was May 2009. Irving Ladimer offered to coordinate this effort with a general target date of January for proposals. As an additional comment to this suggestion, it was recommended that a separate resolution book be maintained for all resolutions passed by the board.
- II. Consider the experiences of last year's Nominating Committee, four of whom were present. There was a general sense that there should be a clear statement in April that all officer and chair positions are open and available for nomination; that if a chair does not want to be considered for his/her present position that board members be notified; and, that some procedure be considered for notification to board members when a chair or officer position becomes vacant due to non-reappointment to the board. The Chair will raise the suggestions at the Executive Committee and the issue will be discussed in our October meeting.
- III. Track bill introductions at the City Council for items of importance to the work of the board's committees and where there was interest, track hearing schedules. The consensus was that this effort would be useful for the board work. The Chair offered to work on this along with Mr. Piscitelli and Mr. Spett. (See Franchise & Concession Review Committee Legislative Proposal below)

Nominating Committee Rules/Ethical Guidance Manual

The Chair gave the background and chronology of this issue at the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee and the board. The board passed a resolution with four parts on February 14, 2012. At the May 24 Law, Rules and Ethics Committee a resolution was passed to include these resolutions in the Ethical Guidance Manual.

Irving Ladimer presented the changes, which are creating a new Part V – Community Board Administration section under which 1. Nominating Committee would include the following:

In addition to the Bylaws, which specify the structure and duties of the committee, the following procedures are to be followed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the community board on February 14, 2012.

- (a) Officers: A member of the nominating committee may not be nominated by the committee for a position of officer.
- (b) Committee Chairs: A member of the Nominating Committee under consideration for a committee chair shall recuse him/herself from discussion and vote for that position.
- (c) In the event of a tie vote in the Nominating Committee, both candidates shall be presented to the Board.
- (d) The Nominating Committee must complete its activities and present its slates at least two calendar weeks before the June meeting at which the election will take place.

The committee accepted the changes and the Chair would request the board office to amend the Manual accordingly.

It was agreed that all positions are open and that board members should be made aware of that at the appropriate time.

Franchise & Concession Review Committee ("FCRC") Legislative Proposal

Mr. Piscitelli gave the background and history of the issue dealing with the difficulty of the board to schedule a public hearing for the ice-skating rink concession. The board endorsed a proposal to seek legislation to change the notice time for FCRC hearings.

Working with Councilmember Koppell's legislative aide, legislation has been drafted by the City Council legal staff. It will likely be introduced in October. The committee agreed that once introduced we would suggest a resolution from our committee and the board supporting the passage of the legislation.

Civics Project

Mr. Ladimer introduced the Civics Project and outlined two specific tasks:

- I. Education – seek to teach people the structure of government in such places as schools, libraries, senior centers, etc
- II. Public Forum – organize local elected officials in a forum where they could talk about their function and work and tell people how they can get services.

Several committee members offered to work with Mr. Ladimer on these efforts including Ms. Alexander, Ms. Mullen, Ms. Lennon and Mr. Spett.

Other Business

Mr. Press raised an issue concerning the district manager's lack of response to his request for the Youth Committee agreement. Mr. Stone said the issues surrounding the Youth Committee were discussed and disposed of at the last board meeting.

Mr. Press raised another issue concerning a news article, which he felt breached, a confidential conversation he had with a board member and that speaking to the press was in violation of the board's rules. The Chair stated that there is no confidentiality issue in the two party conversation. Ms. Pilsner noted that the article did not state the source of the information, which could have been anyone.

The next meeting will be on October 25 at 7:00 pm. The location has not been determined. There will not be a November meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The chair thanks Ms. Pilsner for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty

Chair,

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee