MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 27, 2012
AT RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH,
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Committee Members present:
Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Andrew Cohen
Arlene G. Feldmeier
Irving Ladimer
Dana Lennon
Dan Padernacht
Anthony Piscitelli
Robert Press
Ari A. Spett
I.William Stone

Others present:
Miawling Lam, Riverdale Review
John Owens, Jr., Visitor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
The minutes of the October 25th meeting were approved 10-0 with Dana Lennon abstaining.

Old Business Follow-Up

Open Meetings Law (OML): At the October committee meeting copies of the OML were distributed so that exceptions and requirements for executive sessions of our committee could be further reviewed.

At the executive committee, a further question arose concerning that committee. The Board Chair asked the Office of Open Government (OOG) to render an opinion, which was read at the November board meeting. Ms. Ginty offered to send to committee members the opinion including two attached advisory opinions that were the additional basis for the OOG opinion.

Other Business

Centenarian Book: Irving Ladimer is one of the featured biographies in Extraordinary Centenarians in America: Their secrets for living a long vibrant life by Gwen Weiss-Numeroff. His biography is in a chapter entitled “A Bronx Tale”.

The book was passed among committee members who decided that given Irving's years of service to the community board especially as Chair of the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee, this book will be offered to the community board office for their archives as part of the history of this committee and the board.

Bill and Rule Tracking: The committee has been tracking bill introductions and the promulgation of city rules & regulations for issues of importance to the work of the board's committees.

The Chair described a proposed rule concerning the Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO), which pertains to a "moratorium on street fair applications". The Statement of Purpose cites that most events are for the use of multiple blocks and require additional police presence and overtime expenditure. NYPD has requested for the calendar year 2013 that SAPO temporarily deny permits for additional events that place a burden on police resources.

Even though the major reason for the Rule is the occurrence of numerous Manhattan events, the proposed rule has city-wide applicability and would authorize SAPO to deny permits to events scheduled for calendar year 2013, if the event was not held in the calendar year 2012.

Ms. Ginty will send a copy of the proposed rule to the committee members. Comments on the proposed SAPO Rule are due January 22, 2013.

Nominating Committee Guideline Proposal

The Chair stated that at the October committee meeting we considered the experiences of last year's Nominating Committee, and adopted a resolution concerning three issues in the nominating committee procedures. At the October board meeting, two portions of the resolution were adopted and the third portion was sent back to the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee for further consideration.

The issue we are asked to reconsider concerns the non-reappointment of an officer or committee chair to the board. Since this occurs late in the nominating committee process, the board members do not have an opportunity to place their names into consideration and the nominating committee does not have the information or time to notify board members, interview and consider candidates.

The committee discussed and recognized that the timing at this point in the nominating process prevents normal committee procedures to occur. It was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the by-laws are sufficient; therefore, when a chair or officer position becomes vacant due to non-reappointment, the board in accordance with existing by-laws may nominate candidate(s) for the vacant office(s) from the floor at the election meeting.

Civics Project

Irving Ladimer gave an update on his work on the Civics Project with committee members. The focus will be on Education and Community Action.

He is developing a program at BronxNet which will be a series on Civics and the Constitution. The effort is supported by the non-profit "Yes the Bronx", which is led by Alex Diacou. The BronxNet series will address Freedom, Guns and, Extending the Constitution.

Other successful projects by Mr. Ladimer that furthered Civics Education have been:

1. After-school program at Riverdale Neighborhood House.
2. Library program for adults at the Kingsbridge Library with Senator Gustavo.
3. A play at the Riverdale Senior Center entitled We, the People.

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The date of the next meeting and its location will be announced at a later date. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The chair thanks Sylvia Alexander for assisting with the minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee