

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, CB #6 – JUNE 28, 2017

Members Present: Jannie Armstrong, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinoza, Maria Garcia, Jerry Jackson, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Floretta O'Brien, Wendy Rodriguez, Moussa Siby, and Gil Simmons, as well as other members and people from the community.

(District Manager) DM John Sanchez and (CA) Community Assistant Carla Leon were in attendance as well.

The meeting was called to order by Wendy Rodriguez at 6:40 PM.

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss Items #2 and #3 of the Executive Committee's agenda of June 14, 2017 which had been tabled for this time (copy attached).

Chairperson (CP) Wendy Rodriguez informed those present about a letter received by many board members from Leslie Jones, former Comm. Coordinator, in which he made certain allegations regarding correspondence between himself and the DM in which he made disparaging remarks about her. In addition, she reported that she had received several phone calls from others in community service who seemed to corroborate what Leslie had alleged in his e-mails. Subsequently, Wendy did call Tom Lucaina, our liaison at the Borough President's office, for clarification on the matter. Tom expressed his sentiment that she should ignore Leslie's comments since he felt that Leslie was not feeling well at the time of his comments. Nevertheless, Wendy expressed her disappointment and hurt over these allegations. DM John Sanchez suggested that Leslie may have misinterpreted their conversation and stated that he regretted that his statements may have been misconstrued,

The members decided that the allegations in the letter should be dealt with so that it would no longer be an issue in the future. A lively discussion ensued regarding this letter as well as the general lack of communication between the Board office and members of the board.

Following this discussion, the role of the Ad Hoc committee in what was clearly their erroneous action in sending letters to board members who were mistakenly viewed as having missed three consecutive general meetings as covered under Article 3, Sec. 4 of our By-Laws and thereby thought to be subjects for removal from the board. It was explained that such letters do not go to the full board until such time as the Ad Hoc committee's attempts to notify members so alleged were given a chance to respond. However, in the DM's two undated letters to the board (one of which is resumed to have taken place after 5/31/17 as per the last paragraph of his memo), he alleged that the establishment of the Ad Hoc committee was fraudulent and further said they were in violation of the By-Laws. However, when the By-Laws were reviewed under Article 3, Sec. 5-a, it revealed that the Ad Hoc committee was not fraudulently established as per the provisions of this section. They simply did not carefully review their information and sent the letters out to those board members in error.

John was then given the opportunity to explain the allegations in his letter to the board and his report on the Ad Hoc committee, both of which were undated. He reported that he felt that he had the authority to act as he did. Nevertheless, it was explained that most of his accusations against his Community Assistant (CA), Carla Leon, were unjustified because she was merely carrying out the instructions given to her by the Chairperson and the Ad Hoc committee. It is noted that both the DM and his staff serve at the pleasure of the board (see City Charter and Handbook for Community Boards for this). In addition, it was noted in these minutes that John's correspondence presumably dated after 5/31/17 gives this as a basis for withdrawing his recommendation for a promotion for

Carla. While it is recognized that the board agreed and granted John the power to supervise his subordinates, of course, it is believed that this punitive action against Carla was unjustified.

After some additional spirited and animated discussion of these matters, including the fact that there is still a lack of communication between the DM, committee chairs, the CP and the board in general, we recognize that this is a recurring problem that must be resolved. In view of this, Alice suggested and Wendy agreed that the best way to ameliorate and specifically address some of these matters was to form a committee to amend the By-Laws and prepare a draft for review for all members so that they can provide their suggestions to this effort.

There ensued an impassioned admonishment and plea from Jannie Armstrong that we show more respect for each other and that we remember our mission and conduct our meetings with more dignity. All agreed that this was a good suggestion.

Wendy made mention about the summer activities that were planned for our district and was informed that the information had already been sent out. Any board members who hadn't received this information would get it in a second mailing that would be disseminated in the next few days.

There being no further business, Rev. Marilyn Oliver was asked to deliver a parting prayer. After that, Wendy wished everyone a great summer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Floretta A. O'Brien
Board Secretary