

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMUNITY BOARD #6 – OCTOBER 3, 2017

Members Present: Jannie Armstrong, Irene Borgen, Virginia Bird, Evonne Capers, Alice Charles, Nelson Chimilio, Claudette Coles, Diana Diaz, Margarita Espinoza, Kia Ferguson, Maria Garcia, Jerry Jackson, Laura James, Octavia Lewis, Sara Nunez-Mejia, Floretta O'Brien, Wendy Rodriguez, and Michael Yu.

(District Manager) DM John Sanchez was in attendance as well.

The meeting was called to order by (CP) Chairperson Wendy Rodriguez at 6:30 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the two items on the agenda, namely; 1) the revision of our By- Laws and; 2) consideration of the DM's request for a merit raise.

1) BY-LAWS:

Wendy opened the meeting informing everyone that she had requested that Alice Charles review the By-Laws to learn if they contained any legal errors and to suggest necessary changes. The Secretary had also volunteered to review the By-Laws as well as the other members who were in place at the time. Wendy further explained that while the meeting is an open one (i.e., the public and all committee members are permitted to attend these meetings), if a vote was taken on any of the items on the agenda, only members of the Executive Committee were allowed to vote on them. The Executive Committee is comprised of the chairperson and other officers of the board as well as the chairs of all the committees as they are defined in our current By-laws.

Copies of the By-Laws draft with its suggested revisions were distributed to all present. The Secretary explained that the changes that Alice was suggesting are highlighted in blue and the ones she suggested are highlighted in yellow & that they were all incorporated into one document to make it easier to read and note the changes.

Alice went into further detail to explain that some of her suggested changes that were significant were necessary to conform to the City Charter; others were just grammatical. This is important because any clauses in violation of the Charter are rendered void. As an example, she cited our present provisions for removal of a member from office which is currently not in compliance with the Charter. Other changes were pointed out with explanations given for each. She noted that many of the sections and clauses in our original version seemed to be in the wrong place and were inconsistent with the topic. Another item she pointed out was that we needed to clarify some of the language of the By-laws to conform to what we actually do in practice as long as it did not violate the Charter. This is not stated in the original By-Laws, nor in any of its amendments.

The Secretary then pointed out changes she suggests and noted Carla's contributions to the process. She asked for clarification of what constituted a quorum for general meetings and was told that it had to be at least one-half of the total number of board members plus one other. It was suggested from the floor, therefore, that where the language reads three-quarters of the board in the original By-Laws, that it be changed to quorum and a proviso added that no proxy votes would be permitted. Alice suggested that a map of our district be included in these revisions so that it would clarify the area of our jurisdiction.

All of the board members present were asked for their input. Several suggestions were submitted, discussed and it was decided as to whether they would be incorporated in the revised draft. Some of these suggestions include, but are not limited to: the time periods for when an ad hoc committee shall convene, the

rotation of committee members and chairpersons to keep the board diverse, the inclusion of a district map within the document, and the temporary appointment of an officer to keep order when the Parliamentarian wished to speak. All of the agreed upon changes were finalized and will be reflected in the revised draft that the Secretary will prepare. In addition, the Secretary was assigned to formulate language regarding the Ad Hoc and Executive Committees and their functions to conform to language and guidelines in both the City Charter and the Handbook for Community Boards. If these changes are approved at the next Executive Committee, they will be presented to the full board for a vote. If accepted by the full board, the changes will be included and will become the new By-laws document for CB #6 (copy attached). For now, however, the motion to approve the draft By-Laws document, as amended, was presented by Sara Mejia and seconded by Virginia Bird. This motion was unanimously approved.

2) DM's REQUEST FOR A MERIT INCREASE IN SALARY

DM John Sanchez submitted a presentation and requested a merit increase in his salary, over and above those already automatically granted by the City since he assumed the position in August 2016. He states that his request should be based on what he feels are his accomplishments and his performance over his 13-month tenure (a copy of his presentation is attached). A spirited discussion followed, with information the Secretary presented to the committee based on research that refutes John's assertions, i.e., the public record of DMs salaries in all 12 Bronx districts, including a statistical analysis of how John's salary compares with others in his classification ; press releases and minutes listing the accomplishments of district managers in the other 11 other Bronx districts, service time included; John's own job description and the job description listed in the Charter governing district managers; and studies on the demographics of the Bronx's districts. These were all used to compare, assess and evaluate whether John's request was reasonable. When John's job description was again reviewed, as well as what he lists as his accomplishments, it appears that he has done nothing extraordinary above that description that would warrant a merit increase at this time. Because debate on this issue left the matter unresolved, John was then asked to leave the room while the committee continued its deliberations. CP Wendy directed those members who were eligible to vote to go into executive session to decide the matter. Some more discussion ensued. A motion presented by Floretta and seconded by Virginia to approve the District Manger's salary increase request was denied by a vote of 1 in favor, 8 oppositions and 0 abstentions (voting record attached). Because this request was denied, it will not go to the full board for a vote. John was brought back into the meeting and told of the executive committee's decision to deny his request at this time.

After a brief summary of upcoming community events, Wendy made the motion and Margie seconded it to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Floretta A. O'Brien
Board Secretary