

LRE Minutes
September 14, 2026

Special Note: Unfortunately, the meeting was not recorded. In addition, we were unable to attain a quorum. The following is a summary of the issues raised. In addition, there are added notes (indicated in Italics and underlined) of relevant information that was received shortly after the meeting.

1. Prior to calling the meeting to order, there was conversation about the origin of the “Gag” order on Community Boards concerning ballot items on City Charter revisions.
 - a. Via Zoom, Sue Ellen Dodell, community member and a retired attorney from the Campaign Finance Board, shared information about the possible specific reference preventing CB’s from passing resolution for or against.
 - b. Committee members present and Charles Moerdler on Zoom reviewed the impact of last year’s Charter Revisions which have resulted in the negative activities throughout the city, but specifically in Van Cortland Village. Contrary to statements in” City of Yes – Housing,” there has not been a “little new housing here and there without changing the character of a neighborhood.”
2. Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.
3. Attendance: – A quorum was not present
 - a. Present: (4) Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Steve Matthews, Vice Chair, Sylvia Alexander (ADA), Arlene Feldheimer
 - b. Absent (5): Steve Froot, Vice Chair, Joy D. Cambell Priveterre, Charles Moerdler (on zoom), Jyll Townes, Sergio Villaverde
 - c. Guest (1): Sue Ellen Dodell, community resident and retired attorney for the Campaign Finance Board
4. Approval of June 8, 2026 minutes – Laid over
5. Filling term-limited chairperson vacancies
 - a. Under the bylaws, vacancies in standing committee chair positions must be filled by the second Board meeting following knowledge of the vacancy.
 - b. Thus, in May, there will be the first class of Board members reaching term limits leaving the Board; three chairs among them.
 - c. Under current procedures, there would be a vote in May with the full election of officers and chairs occurring in June.
 - d. The chair recommended that the item to elect the interim chairs be on the agenda at the May Board meeting. Thus, an outgoing chair will be able to nominate and vote for a successor. Nominations could still be made from the floor.
 - e. Item tabled until there is a quorum present.
6. Date, time of meetings – Noting that October meeting was changed to Thursday, October 22, Chair asked if 7:30 pm was still the preferred time. Decision put off until a quorum is present.
7. Chair noted he had named Steve Matthews as the second vice-chair.
8. Chair reported on an August meeting that he and Steve Matthews had with new the Board Chair Margaret Della. They discussed the role of LRE and how the committee seeks to support the Board chair. It was also an opportunity for the new Board chair to meet the new LRE vice-chair.
9. Committee membership and term limits:

Membership	Term limited
a. Sylvia Alexander	2027
b. Steve Froot	2027
c. Sergio Villaverde, Esq	2027
d. Martin Wolpoff	2027
e. Joy Cambell Priveterre, Esq,	2029
f. Charles Moerdler, Esq.	2030
g. Jyll Townes	2032
h. Arlene Feldheimer	2034

i. Steve Matthews 2034

Sylvia Alexander requested that the BP's office be asked if there is any latitude, e.g., could Board members remain until June or until their successor class was named. While chair had serious doubts, he said he would pass on the inquiry.

10. Committee Blurb

Chair raised and tabled a discussion on the blurb the Board uses to provide new members with information about the Board's committees and the committee's statement of purpose.

11. New member Primer – a retrospective

Chair asked for feedback on the LRE presentation at the new member orientation. It was noted that the slides presentation augmented, but shouldn't replace, the distributed Primer. He noted the contribution of Board chair Della in drafting the slide presentation.

12. Carryover items:

a. Lobbying concerning items on a referendum ballot

i. Chair provided copies of previous correspondence.

ii. Chair wrote to COIB asking for the specific reference that forbids CB's from taking any position and the calendar as to when any such action becomes taboo. To date there has been no response.

iii. Following the meeting, Ms. Dodell provided the reference from the City Charter under Campaign Finance Board Chapter 49, §1136.1

iv. Ms. Dodell also provided an article from amNY that noted that COGE has a city-funded budget of \$1.6 million dollars to inform the electorate about the 5 questions on the ballot. Quoted in the article is Ann Cheng, Executive Director of COGE. "Cheng said any outside effort explicitly urging New Yorkers would be separate from COGE's campaign. 'That wouldn't be us,' she said, 'the commission's role as providing voters with education.' "Chang said COGE would measure the campaign success partly by whether it could recreate the level of public engagement the Commission saw during its summer hearings, which drew New Yorkers across the city despite the heat and rain"

v. Steve Mathews suggested that we receive the full texts of the 5 questions, not operate exclusively from the blurbs.

b. Working group

Chair noted that LRE had tabled the suggestions of last year's working on restructuring Bd 8 committee until we received supportive data and full statements of rationale. Chair Della will receive a note that she would need to appoint another working group or provide a resolution to create a special committee, if she wished, to further pursue all of parts of such effort.

13. Objectives for this year

a. Committee members should review and become more acquainted with the esoteric elements of Roberts Rules.

b. Committee members should review and update the Ethical Guidance Manual

14. NYC legislative spreadsheet – Was distributed to LRE members and members of the Board's exec committee - Tabled

15. Items from COIB – Committee reviewed the latest "Settlements."

16. Unfinished Business – None

17. New Business - None

18. Next Dates:

Thursday Oct 22, Mondays: Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14

19. Meeting adjourned 9:05

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Wolpoff, Chair
Laws, Rules and Ethics Committee