

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
November 2, 2022
Held on Zoom
(pending approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Buford, Margaret Della, David Gellman, Julia Gomez, Rosemary Ginty, Edward Green, Rob Jacklosky, Camelia Tepeus, Deb Travis, Stephen Vazquez, Martin Wolpoff.

Committee Members Absent

Bob Bender, Lisa Daub, Nick Fazio, Charles G. Moerdler, Omar Murray, Sergio Villaverde.

Staff

Pablo Romano, Community Associate (at start of meeting).

Guests and CB8 Members

Lee Chong, D. Reynoso.

Chair Spalter called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 6, 2022 were approved with two abstentions (R. Ginty and C. Tepelus).

Chairperson's Report

Chair Spalter reported that On Sunday, November 6th Community Board 8's Veterans Committee and the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance are co-sponsoring a Veterans Day Ceremony in Van Cortlandt Park's Memorial Grove at noon. Please join.

On November 9th at 10:00 AM there will be a hearing on CSX Acquisition by the City of New York. Chair Spalter is testifying in support for the board. An informational notice was sent out.

Chair Spalter had a discussion with Capt. Gervin about his upcoming retirement. She wished him well. He will be missed.

We will hold an election for Treasurer on Thursday, November 10 (note the change of date, due to Election Day). Thus far, two members have notified the board of their interest: Camelia Tepelus and Scott Krompinger.

Tania Ochoteco is resigning. She and her family recently moved to Connecticut. Her last day is November 11. Tania has been with us three years and has done a great job. We wish her well. There's a new hiring system that CBs must use called E-hire. Will post position ASAP. Until we have a new hire on the FMS system, the BP Office will input our bills. Ciara will cover her committees. We ask for patience from the Board during this transition.

School Construction Authority (SCA)

Chair Spalter noted that she had sent the board the exchange of letters with the School Construction Authority (SCA). She characterized the SCA response as vague and disappointing. After the public hearing on September 29th, she sent a letter on October 11 to SCA including public testimony and listing the many problematic issues, such as the footprint of the school, the playground, construction, the staging area, the traffic, the storm water runoff. The school and Tishman Speyer project are both as of right. They say they are committed to returning the board when they have additional information to share, which they anticipate will be mid-2023. This issue will be further discussed at the Education Library and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting scheduled for November 22nd. Chair Spalter urged members to attend.

Treasurer's Report

B. Bender was appointed as acting treasurer. He could not be here tonight, however, a report has been sent. He will deliver the treasurer's report at the November Full Board Meeting.

District Manager's Report

None.

Committee Resolutions

Chair Spalter introduced the renewal of the Hybrid Resolution that was passed in May 2022. The original resolution required board review in six months. It is paired with the original. We don't really have feedback from hybrid at outside locations. We have a way to go to see how this turns out.

Discussion on the language ensued.

Committee Members Issues for Discussion

S. Alexander noted that the audio in the board office proved problematic during the LRE Zoom meeting. Chair Spalter asked D. Gellman to talk to C. Gannon about these technical issues.

Chair Spalter referenced what she called the "civility" letter, sent to the board after she received messages from 19 board members expressing support and their frustration over the October meeting. She noted that there is nothing about civility or congeniality in our by-laws or Ethical Guidance Manual. She's asking the Executive Committee to assist her moving forward. The Executive Committee meeting takes place one week prior to full board for a reason: troubleshooting, previewing resolutions, airing issues that need discussion. She would have appreciated if the election of Parks chair had been raised in Executive, or any time prior to the full board meeting. Had the issue been raised at the October Executive, she would have sent out an amended agenda.

C. Tepelus defended her use of her cell phone clock referenced in the "civility letter." She noted that time limits for elected officials need to be more strictly observed, especially regarding elected officials' remarks. Discussion of meeting protocol followed.

Follow-up on Outstanding Issues

Update on the new office. C. Spalter said that we have had several conversations with Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). We provided DCAS with our first choice located in Kingsbridge. DCAS has notified the owner and made a formal offer. The offer has not been accepted yet.

Minutes. M. Wolpoff noted that minutes should not be stenographic recordings of who said what and when they said it. He said that the role of minutes should be a record of what took place, and votes taken. The minutes should reflect the intent of the comments, not the verbatim record of what was said.

Laws Rules and Ethics Report

Guidelines. The committee worked on guidelines for the use of “extraordinary circumstance” under the hybrid model. He thanked D. Padernacht and S. Froot for reviewing the guidelines. M. Wolpoff said the goal is to avoid making spontaneous and inconsistent decisions from one committee to the next. He will present the guidelines, after Executive committee input and amendments, at the full board. He noted that situations will come up that we haven’t anticipated, and we will be modifying it as our experiences change it. M. Wolpoff said the guidelines, once amended and approved, would be placed in the Procedures Guide, not offered as a resolution.

Committee Composition. LRE’s vote was unanimous to not approve the resolution to amend the by-laws presented by C. Tepelus.

C. Tepelus raised how committees are constituted, especially the question of discretion of the committee chair and the board chair on committee composition. She will be bringing an amended resolution back in another form.

Discussion followed on the role of the committee chair and the board chair on this matter.

C. Tepelus asked that all current full board members be listed on the CB website, as well as committee membership, along with brief biographical notes, the year they were appointed, etc. It is done at other CBs and would be helpful to the community. It was noted that that CB website is new and still being updated.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary

Reviewed by Ciara Gannon, District Manager