

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
May 5, 2022
Held on Zoom
(pending approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Sylvia Alexander, Bob Bender, Joy Campbell-Priveterre, Margaret Della, Robert Fanuzzi, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty, Julia Gomez, Ed Green, Rob Jacklosky, Daniel Padernacht, Ramdat Singh, Deb Travis, Sergio Villaverde, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Absent

Nicholas Fazio, Charles G. Moerdler, Omar Murray, Ted Morris.

Staff

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Guests and CB8 Members

Julie Reyes (for Ted Morris)

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 6th 2022 were approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Spalter asked if the Executive Committee members had completed the Sexual Harassment training and reminded them that the deadline is June 30th. Some board members reported that they have had trouble completing it from home due to technical difficulties. She announced that three long-serving Community Board members would be honored by the Borough President's Office with a special dinner for their many years of service: Chuck Moerdler, Karen Pesce and Marty Wolpoff on May 11th.

Chair Spalter updated the members on the awards the Irving Ladimer CSA Award and the Betty Campbell Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award. Nominations are being accepted until May 15th. Chair Spalter thanked the Economic Development Committee and the ad hoc committee members, Rob Jacklosky, Chris Calhoun and Stephen Vasquez, for their service. She will keep us posted

Chair Spalter updated the committee on the Riverdale Avenue redesign proposal. She wrote to the assistant director for operations for Metro North Railroad, and sent DOT plans, highlighting concerns about the bus turn-arounds and issues that could impede their route and schedule. The response was that Metro North had no knowledge of this plan. Concerns were expressed and the plan was sent to upper management.

Treasurer's Report

J. Campbell-Priveterre presented the report for FY 2022, May. On item 1, operating budget. The budget for personal services doesn't change. Allocated amount is \$167,836 remaining is \$65,698. Other than personal services and salaries, there is \$90,194 left.

Other than personal services there is \$17,306 allocated and \$20,707 remaining.

On 1.3 purchase order accounts payable. There is \$7,975 encumbered. There is a lag between inputting and processing. Under 1.4 allocated \$49,558 and remaining \$17,614. This is the projected budget. Office furniture and equipment, printing and cleaning services (code 624) for a total of \$35,020. The budget is in line with last couple years, with the caveat that the COVID situation required more cleaning than in prior years.

Ciara commented that this is the same exact budget projection as last year. It will be a very good start for us in September. We are putting \$20,000 in the holding code which is "savings" code for when we need it.

D. Padernacht asked about staff time accruals. This item will be discussed.

C. Gannon presented the Budget Resolution for the Projected Operating Budget for FY 23 so the OMB can set up our budget for July 1st. A budget modification can take place at any point of the year.

District Manager's Report

C. Gannon discussed electronic upgrades of the office. To assist with the hybrid option, she is using a vendor we have used before and who was recommended by Department of Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT) would be coming into do the installation on Friday. C. Gannon said there would be trainings on how to conduct hybrid meetings from the board office.

As part of a meet and greet program, C. Gannon and Chair Spalter met with the staff of Department of Homeless Services. We don't see many complaints about homeless. But we did get a complaint about an encampment at BJ's. Their street team was scheduled to go out yesterday to look into this homeless encampment. They focus on street homeless cases and will continue be our contact. There are no updates on the Broadway Homeless Shelter. E. Green asked that he and his committee be looped in so his committee can follow up on it.

C. Gannon reminded the chairs to submit their agendas and minutes in an appropriate time frame. It's important to note that there is public interest in the timely submission of agendas and minutes within 10 days of the meetings. It's difficult given the office's many new tasks, responsibilities, to chase down chairs for committee minutes and agendas. The agendas should be submitted on letterhead provided by the office, and the office will insert the Zoom link.

D. Gellman sent in a reminder that we needed to update the budget page on the website for FY 2023, and hasn't yet been updated. C. Gannon said the request has been made to DoITT, and DoITT hasn't done it yet.

D. Gellman asked about electronic lock system for new office. C. Gannon said she was working on getting information. DCAS said it is most likely our decision but that they would get back to us on what is currently

standard. It will probably be a modern system. C. Gannon thinks that it may be that DCAS or the landlord might take care of the cost of it.

D. Padernacht asked if the office staff are still doing hybrid work from home. And C. Gannon said they are. Usually 2 are in office and one works from home.

D. Padernacht asked if we still have computers for use by board members and the answer was “Yes.”

Committee Resolutions

Public Safety

E. Green presented a resolution for full liquor license for Gaelic Athletic Association 201 W. 240th Street to renew the establishment’s application. They corrected an issue with the address. The committee unanimously approved the application.

Housing

J. Reyes presented a Street Activity Permit Office Application (SAPO) resolution on behalf of Ted Morris and the Housing Committee. Marble Hill Residents Council has requested a full street closure from W. 228th Street to W. 230th Street and Marble Hill Avenue for a block party to honor a local merchant (Rosey’s Barber Shop) and give back to the community on Saturday, June 18th. There wasn’t a quorum at the housing committee but the majority of those presented recommended passage.

Education

S. Alexander presented a SAPO resolution for the Lag Baomer Block Party between 2:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. on May 19th, 2022 on W. 235th Street between Independence and Douglas Avenues.

S. Alexander presented second resolution about a block party for the Amalgamated Nursery School on June 5th 2022 between 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The resolutions were approved unanimously.

Law, Rule and Ethics

M. Wolpoff presented on the question of wordsmithing on resolutions. His question concerned a situation where a chairperson speaking to several members break the rules and go beyond “contacting one or two people.” M. Wolpoff’s issue was whether there is a limit to the number of people you can call to ask about wordsmithing before it becomes a public meeting. An extended discussion ensued.

M. Wolpoff’s final item was LRE suggestions for best practices guidelines for CB meetings. This will be brought to the full board next meeting. The document will be circulated to the full board before the board meeting.

M. Della had a question about the level of the community’s participation and engagement with the committees.

Issues for Discussion

Chair Spalter said she had sent the committee documents on the open meetings law and the hybrid meetings. Come June 4th, Community Boards will return to in-person meetings.

-Adopting a Hybrid model will require a public hearing and a resolution. Many regulations are associated with this model.

-Completely in-person with 100% in-person participation, then no public hearing or resolution is necessary.

But if the CB would like to accommodate the public via hybrid and also accommodate a small group of board members who ask for an exemption under very specific circumstances to participate via video conferencing that is the "hybrid" model. Those members seeking exemptions will be allowed to vote but will not count toward the quorum. The draft resolution was read.

She outlined the various advantages and disadvantages of hybrid meetings. The pros of the hybrid model included increased public involvement and accommodating members who cannot attend in person; most meetings can happen from our conference room, with the public Zooming in. The cons included that we would not have staff to aid us with technology problems during meetings and any technical challenges that may arise; the question of who would adjudicate and provide Community Board member exemptions; the challenge of chairs picking up and returning equipment when meeting in venues other than the office; even under the best circumstances, including professional IT assistance, there can be technological failures that derail meetings.

An extended discussion ensued.

C. Gannon underlined that a decision needs to be made by June 9th. A public hearing will take place on May 10th. If we make no decision or offer a resolution, will have to meet in person.

There will be a meeting with the Bronx Borough President's Office with District Managers, Chairs and the Committee on Open Government on May 9th to answer our questions about the hybrid model.

Training for the hybrid model will need to be widespread---many members, not just the chairs, will need to be trained.

A non-binding straw poll of member sentiment was conducted. Eight voted in favor of the hybrid model; Seven voted to Abstain. Many expressed the need for more information. No one vote against the resolution.

C. Spalter said we would be meeting at the Riverdale Y for the Full Board meeting on June 29th.

R. Ginty asked if there was any additional news on the new office, and there have not been any new developments. DCAS is still looking at the plans.

D. Gellman noted that on the budget, everyone should have gotten the preliminary list of capital and expense items on Monday. The committee priorities have not been ordered yet: they are just listed in the order they were received. They will be ordered in June. If you have any questions, call or email D. Gellman.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary

Reviewed by Ciara Gannon, District Manager