

LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023

Attendance:

Present (4): Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Sylvia Alexander, David Gellman, Dan Padernacht

Absent (1): Steve Froot

Guests (5): Laura Spalter, Board chair, Rosemary Ginty, Camelia Tepelus, Nick Fazio, OLM

1. Introduction of Committee members and guests
2. Approval of January Minutes – Approved unanimously
3. Chairperson's report
 - A. Chair noted that he had forwarded to all Board members a copy of COIB's "New York Conflicts of Interest Law, Covering New York City Public Servants (*Plain Language Version*)"
 - B. Camelia reprised the comments of a resident near the Visitation site who questioned if the chair of land use had a conflict by being committee chair and being a member of the HPD board. LRE chair noted that the arbiter of this issue was within the purview of the COIB and that this committee was in no position to offer an opinion.
4. Item raised by committee member
Dan requested a lay over until the March meeting.
5. Procedures
 - A. Chair recounted the process, starting in November, which brought us to tonight
 - B. The following elements were reviewed and discussed:
 1. All teleconferenced meetings, as advised in the appropriate public notice, will permit public participation, when committee rules allow
 2. Although not required by law, when a meeting is not being teleconferenced, it is in the best interest of the Board and openness for the public, to arrange for audio tapping of committee meetings. Although there are those who have expressed difficulties with this process, the committee believes the item should remain.
 3. The passage concerning ADA was added
 4. The process for getting approval of off-site participation under Extraordinary Circumstances (EC) was reviewed.
 5. The fact that minutes need to list separately those members who had received written approval for EC
 6. The minutes should not identify the basis for any EC approval.
 7. The BP's office is kept informed of the Board member attendance
 - C. Vote to bring the Procedures as a resolution for approval by the Board – Approved unanimously
 - D. Chair thanked the committee, the executive committee and all the Board members who offered comments.
6. Discussion of COIB Agreements – The one item from COIB was discussed
7. Discussion of the NYC legislative spreadsheet – Chairman reminded the committee that although he downloaded all of the items on the City Council Legislative calendar, he no longer attempted to highlight items he thought were important for our Board members. He left that to committee chairs and Board members. He still sorts the items by committee and highlights items introduced by any of our three City Council representatives.
8. Old business - None
9. New Business – Camelia raised an item concerning one committee's minutes that she thought exceeded the committee's authority. Chair felt that without having seen the item in question and having not spoken with the Board and committee chair, there was no basis for discussion at this meeting.
10. Next Meeting – March 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Wolpoff, Chair
Law, Rules and Ethics committee