

Awaiting Committee Approval
LAW, RULES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
Minutes
March 14, 2022

1. Meeting Called to order at 7:05
2. Attendance:
Present (10): Martin Wolpoff, Sylvia Alexander, Kelli Bouford, Lisa Daub, Paul Ellis, Steve Froot, Rosemary Ginty, David Gellman, Omar Murray, Dan Padernacht
Absent (0):
Guests (4): Karen Argenti, Margaret Della, Camelia Tepelis, Leona Teten,
3. Approval of February 14, 2022 minutes
 - A. Correction - Ms. Ginty noted that the former Mayor's Racial Justice Commission proposed three ballot items to appear in November 2022. Committee members suggested that LRE should review the items to see if the Board might adopt/adapt one or more that align to our objectives.
 - B. Ms. Ginty suggested we research back to the last time there was a ballot proposal concerning City Charter revisions. It was her recollection that COIB advised community boards could not take any position on the items.
 - C. Ms. Ginty also inquired whether a decision was made concerning which committee(s) will oversee proposed changes for permits for sidewalk restaurants.

Vote: Unanimous approval

4. Chairperson's report
 - A. Paul Ellis has advised the community Board that he is not seeking reappointment. Thus, this was to be his last Community Board meeting. The chair, Ms. Ginty and other committee members thanked him for his distinguished service and noted he would be missed.
 - B. Chair advised committee members to review the communication from the Borough President's office concerning COIB rules prohibiting use of CB positions for political activities or supporting political candidates. it was recommended that we invite a COIB representative to speak to a meeting to more fully explain the prohibitions and how they work.
 - C. Reminder about "practicable."

There are still some misunderstandings about the time requirement for publishing of minutes and resolutions. Ms. Tepelis contacted the board office and forwarded slides concerning recent changes to the Open Meetings Law. All committees, and the full board, are required to publish their minutes within two weeks of any meeting, However, with respect to resolutions, it is not always practicable to provide resolution wording 24-hours in advance due to resolutions arising from the floor, and it is usually beneficial to receive community input. Chairs need to be sure that when an issue is coming up, their agendas inform the public that an item is to be raised.

- D. We have been advised that the Governor has declared 3/18/2022 for the end of the Covid emergency. All public meetings will be in-public thereafter.



- E. Discussion of distinction between “representing” and “discussing.”
Members again complained that they had not received the materials forwarded from the board office concerning the CB12 Manhattan member who was fined \$1,500 for “representing” her organization before her Community Board in violation of the City Charter. The chair contacted COIB for an explanation of the difference between “representing” and being able to “Discuss” an item for which there is a “Declared” conflict of interest. Hearing committee member complaints about having not received the materials, the chair **once again** tabled this item to be discussed next month.
- F. Discussion of Racial Equity items on the Citywide November Ballot
The committee reviewed the three items that will be on the November ballot that originated from the mayor’s Commission on racial equity. It was already pointed out at community boards can I take positions on valid issues, however the objective here which is determined whether there were issues raised four which one or more community boards could consider for expanding their folio. It was also suggested that we seek to obtain the full wording on the ballot issues beyond the blurbs provided in a press release.

Ballot Question #1: Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government

Ballot Question #2: Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

Ballot Question #3: Measure the True Cost of Living

5. Latest COIB Dispositions

The committee reviewed the latest Depositions from the Conflicts of Interest Board.

6. New York City Council Legislative Spreadsheet

A. Chair noted that there were 21 items designed to “Amend the City Charter.”

B. The Committee engaged in a brief overview of some of the proposals before the City Council that the chair found interesting. Although he tried to locate the three items concerning outdoor restaurants, he could not. Thus, presented here are those three items.

File #	Law Number	Type	Status	Committee	Prime Sponsor	Council Member Sponsors	
Int 2096-2020	2022/039	Introduction	Enacted	Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing	Ben Kallos	4	A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to authorizing the department of consumer and worker protection to issue temporary operating licenses to sidewalk cafe applicants if certain requirements are satisfied
Int 2134-2020	2022/041	Introduction	Enacted	Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing	Rafael Salamanca, Jr.	5	A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the preparation of plans in connection with petitions for revocable consents for sidewalk cafes
Int 0031-2022		Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Consumer and Worker Protection	Marjorie Velázquez	3	A Local Law to AMEND THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to granting licenses and revocable consents for sidewalk cafes and roadway cafes, to repeal subchapter 6 of chapter 2 of title 20 of such administrative code, relating to granting licenses and revocable consents for sidewalk cafes, to amend section 2 of local law number 114 for the year 2020, relating to the establishment of a permanent outdoor dining program, in relation to the commencement of such program, and to amend section 1 of local law number 77 for the year 2020, relating t

C, Chair extended an Invitation to Councilmember Eric Dinowitz to help to understand the City Council process for presenting and enacting legislation/,

7. Draft Guidelines for Community Board Meetings

Hearing committee member complaints about not having received the materials, the chair **once again** tabled this item to be discussed next month.

There was discussion of recommendations made by Sergio Villeverdi and Karen Argenti

8. Old business - none

9. New Business – none

10. Adjournment – 9:55 - Next Meeting April 11, 2022 (in person).

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Wolpoff,
Chair, Law, Rules and Ethics committee