

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2014 RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH, 5676 RIVERDALE AVE. – 2ND FLOOR

Committee Members present:

Rosemary Ginty, Chair
Sylvia Alexander
Arlene Feldmeier
Dan Padernacht
Anthony Piscitelli
Robert Press
I. William Stone
Martin Wolpoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. The minutes of the December 2013 committee meeting with one amendment and the minutes of the January 2014 committee meeting were unanimously adopted.

The chair reported an e-mail from the community board office stating that Mr. Ari Spett has resigned from the board effective early March and therefore is no longer a member of our committee. The e-mail further informed us that Ms. Patricia Mullen has not reapplied for board membership and will therefore not be a member of the board or our committee as of March 31, 2014.

Legislative Review – Status of Council Legislation

A list of certain bill introductions for the new 2014-2017 NYC council session, potentially relating to the board committee's work, was reviewed by the committee. Hearings and any actions will be tracked and reported.

Legislative Review – Intro 948

Intro 948 from 2012 which related to the amount of notice a community board receives prior to a public hearing by the Franchise and Concession Review Committee was not enacted by the City Council in their last session. The issue has been discussed with

Councilmember Cohen, specifically the possibility of introducing a council resolution. Such a resolution would request the city agency to amend their rules concerning the amount of time a community board would have to consider a concession application. While any legislative change would require a City Charter change, the agency can change their internal rules. This suggestion will be discussed by the Councilmember with staff and members at the City Council and the administration.

Legislative Review – Intro 28

On February 4th the City Council introduced a bill concerning the webcasting of community board meetings. The Executive Committee requested that the LRE committee review the proposed legislation. The committee reviewed a memorandum summarizing the bill and its history including the hearing held by the Council's Committee on Technology on February 24th.

The LRE committee recommends that, if the Executive Committee wants to take a position, it follow the near consistent opinions of other community boards i.e., support the concept while asking for the technical support and financing necessary to implement this unfunded mandate.

Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB”) Published Decisions

The chair presented a list of COIB decisions from January through March 2014. Also presented was an updated list of “key phrases” for each opinion to allow for easier retrieval.

Old Business - Community Committee Handbook

At a prior LRE committee meeting a draft Community Committee Handbook was discussed along with suggestions made by members of the executive committee.

At this meeting a redrafted document was discussed. In one instance, the committee wanted to clarify the reappointment procedure. While attendance at three consecutive committee meetings is required for initial appointment as a community committee member, it is not clearly stated that the same is not required for reappointment. The committee therefore proposed and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that upon the approval of the chair of a committee and the chair of the board, any community committee member whose term expires in June and has reapplied, may be reappointed effective July 1 or later, without having to fulfill the three consecutive meeting requirement.

The resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

The Handbook was finalized. It will be brought to the executive committee.

There will be an April meeting, if necessary, held on Thursday, April 24th at the Riverdale Mental Health 2nd floor conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Ginty
Chair,
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee