

Community Board No. 8, Bronx

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee

Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2105
Riverdale Mental Health Association

7:00 PM

Attendance: Martin Wolpoff, Chair; I. William Stone, Vice-Chair; Sylvia Alexander, Philip Friedman, Herb Young, Irving Ladimer

1) Revision of system for approval of committee minutes – Board will revert to former system of committee chair providing minute to the board office for distribution. Committees will approve their minutes at their next meeting.

2) Approval of June minutes – Approved unanimously with Bill Stone abstaining since he had been absent from the June meeting.

3) Discussion of City Council Legislative Activity – Committee reviewed the spreadsheets provided by Rosemary Ginty. Ms. Ginty was absent from the meeting since she had received an invitation to attend the St. Patrick's Cathedral Vesper mass with Pope Francis. One issue that the committee and the board will be looking for is the Mayor's plan for re-zoning for affordable and senior citizen housing. CB 8 has not yet had its informational meetings or public hearing, but it was noted that Crain's has already reported on one Brooklyn community board's actions.

4) Discussion of Conflicts of Interest Board actions – chair reported that he had not received any action sheets over the summer. However, there was discussion on the COIB findings concerning the Deputy Bronx Borough President. The facts would seem to indicate that all board members should take the incident as a head's-up. The alleged misconduct, for which the Deputy BP was fined, was based on the intended, or unintended, improper use of her official title. Board members need to be advised that unauthorized use of their board positions could result in similar action.

5) Reports from Irving Ladimer on "Guidelines." – Irving has met with his committee over the summer. He anticipates having a draft ready shortly. One of the issues on which they have focused has been the role of the CB office staff, vis-à-vis, board members.

6) Old business - none

7) New business

a) Committee Membership – The committee consists of the following members: 1. Martin Wolpoff, 2. Sylvia Alexander, 3. Arlene G. Feldmeier, 4. Phil Friedman, 5. Rosemary Ginty, 6. Irving Ladimer, 7. Robert Press, 8. I.W. Stone, 9. Mary Yamagata, 10. Herb Young. Dana Lennon has resigned from the board.

b) Speaking to the press – reference was made to the item above concerning the Bronx Deputy BP. A recent item in the Riverdale Press in which a board member was so identified was also referenced. This item will be brought to the Executive Committee.

c) Mr. Ladimer asked if the committee/board should provide the community with information concerning obtaining and using New York City ID cards. The committee was not of a single opinion. Chairman Wolpoff noted that he would research the issue before

the next meeting. It was noted that, as an aside, in the near future, TSA will no longer accept driver's licenses as sufficient identification for air travel purposes. Passports will be needed.

d) Concern was expressed concerning the packet of minutes submitted on behalf of the Economic Development committee. A package of several months' minutes was submitted. They were late and indicated that, without identifying any attendance, that there was no quorum and no business conducted. However, as researched on the CB site, for at least one CB meeting, a motion was passed as proffered by the committee. This item will be brought to the executive committee.

e) Irving Ladimer noted that, with respect to the guidelines, we need to better define the use of "abstentions." Irving believes that the request for "cause or because" is not adequate. A person wishing to vote "abstention" must be prepared to declare why he/she was so voting. Phil Friedman noted that he was aware of a board member of an upstate board who was removed from the board after abstaining on the grounds that he/she was absent from the meeting at which the topic was fully discussed. It was pointed out that the board member should have read the meeting's minutes and have been prepared to vote. Chairman Wolpoff noted that he would research the issue before the next meeting.

f) There was also concern expressed about how the public is notified concerning changes in committee procedures and protocols. Specific reference was made about the public safety committee's conditional approval of a new liquor license request. The public safety committee felt that new licenses should require the applicant to agree to a defined initial period of reduced hours of operation. It was recommended that this item be discussed with the executive committee.

8) Next meeting Dates:

Oct 22 – We have been asked to meet at an earlier hour so that LU can meet that night

Nov 26 – Thanksgiving, Dec 24 – Christmas – We will seek an alternate date for one November/December meeting

Jan 28

Feb 25

Mar 24

Apr 28 – Passover – we may skip this month

May 26

Jun 23

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Wolpoff

With additional notes provided by Herb Young