

Awaiting Committee Approval
Minutes
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee
March 4, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm

Present (5): Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Steve Froot, Vice-Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, David Gellman,
EC (1): Charles Moerdler
Absent (2): Rosemary Ginty, Jessica Sosa
Guests (3): Julie Reyes, CB 8 Board Chair, Laura Spalter-CB Immediate Past Chair, George Santana, Community Member
2. Vote to approve February 2024 minutes – approved unanimously as amended. Clarifying the first item in Chair’s report concerning dropping the issue of polling Board members who abstained.
3. Chair’s report
 - A. Alex Kipp, Director of Education and Engagement at the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board will be presenting at the next Full Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12.
 - B. Advising the Community Board on the LRE Committee’s Position Concerning Future Use of Extraordinary Circumstances (EC)
 1. The Chair explained that the survey yielded a poor response rate from committee chairs.
 2. EC is seldom used and when employed, tends to block the flow of meetings.
 3. David Gellman added that EC does not ensure a quorum and impedes meeting performance.
 4. Sylvia Alexander noted the issue of board members “going around the back door” to ask the CB Chair for EC status instead of the committee chair.
 5. Steve Froot added that EC does not incentivize in- person attendance.
 6. In essence, the committee unanimously felt that EC is more burdensome than helpful and recommends discontinuance of this option.
 7. Thus, the committee wishes to recommend to the CB that we sunset “Procedures” regarding EC and allow public participation when appropriate.
 8. The committee will solicit Board input (in person at the April LRE meeting and via e-mail) before writing a formal resolution. This issue will come before the community board in May at the same time that the resolution concerning telecommunicated meetings is up for renewal.

5. Revising Ethical Guidance Manual regarding Nominating Committee (NC) Calendar

The Vice Chair discussed a proposal to amend the EGM to alleviate the potential need for cancellation of two Nominating Committee meetings that may conflict with other CB committee meetings to be in accordance with the Open Meetings Law. This revision would give the board office full discretion in scheduling. Laura Spalter, who raised this issue in a previous meeting, noted that this was “a solution in search of a problem.” Vote to recommend changes to the full Board:

Yes (5): Martin Wolpoff, Steve Froot, Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, David Gellman,
No (0):

Abstention (1): Charles Moerdler

4. COIB - The Chair provided and discussed the latest COIB notices of Dispositions.

5. Legislative Spreadsheet - The Chair noted that he shared the spreadsheet with committee chairs.

6. Old Business

Jillian Baez asked about the issue Margaret Della raised at the January Full Board Meeting regarding what may be discussed about elected officials at meetings. The Chair noted that Alex Kipp will discuss this in more detail during his visit at the next Full Board Meeting. Generally, elected officials are not appropriate to discuss, but lobbying for legislation is acceptable. Once legislation is on the election day ballot, it is not appropriate to discuss at meetings.

7. New Business – No new business was discussed.

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. – Next meeting is April 8