

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee  
Minutes  
February 12, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Present (8): Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Steve Froot, Vice chair, Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty, Charles Moerdler, Jessica Sosa  
Absent (0):  
Guests (2): Julie Reyes (Board chair), Laura Spalter
3. Minutes for December 11, 2023 (previously amended), November 13, 2023 and October 12, 2023 were approved unanimously.
4. Chair's Report -
  - A. Chair announced that he now considered this a dead issue in that he could find no source in support and a response from Alex Kipp of COIB offered no prior reference on the subject. In addition, roll call votes required due to Extraordinary Circumstances made the issue impractical.
  - B. Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws describes the process for CB action to remove a Board Member. Although never previously enforced, a current Board member appointed this year has not been seen or heard from. Action recommended by the Borough President. The exec committee has authorized the sending of a 30 day letter advising that a resolution was to appear on the February full Board agenda.
  - C. Appointing a Community Committee member to a standing committee. The standing protocol was located in the CB 8 Handbook. After attending three consecutive committee meetings, and not being a one issue candidate, a committee chair can recommend such candidate to the Board chair for approval.
  - D. Due to several experiences of "Zoom bombing" it was suggested that all public members who wished to be heard at a CB 8 meeting should be required to show their faces. Examples were offered as to why such a requirement could be impractical. A vote was taken.  
Yes (3): David Gellman, Jessica Sosa, Steve Froot  
No (4): Rosemary Ginty, Sylvia Alexander, Martin Wolpoff, Jillian Baez  
Resolution defeated
4. Review of Survey on use of Extraordinary Circumstances
  1. Sadly there was very limited responses from committee chairs
  2. Chair reviewed the posted Board and committee minutes on the Board's website to assess occurrences of use of EC. He found that there was far less usage than he anticipated. He also admitted to a personal conflict in that while he was negatively oriented toward its continuation, he had requested EC status twice.
  3. Sylvia Alexander reported on an occurrence when she requested EC status and could not reach an authorizing agent. Chair requested that this matter be placed on the March LRE agenda.
  4. Steve Froot noted that there are times when persons requesting EC ended up not Zooming in.
  5. David Gellman suggested removal of EC completely as it does not affect quorum
  6. It was noted that renewal of the resolution authorizing CB 8 to engage in hybrid meetings and use of teleconferencing would be on the Board agenda in May. At that time, a resolution amending the "Procedures" could also be offered.
  7. It was the unanimous sense of the committee that use of EC should be discontinued.
  8. Chair will advise full board at February meeting to encourage input. Any change would require a Board vote.
5. Future of Updates to the Primer to familiarize Board members with concepts, vocabulary and procedures - matter is raised to solicit any new suggestions
6. CB8 Code of Conduct – It was suggested that Board chair read the code at the first Board meeting of the year and whenever necessary or appropriate. Committee chairs should do the same.
7. Committee reviewed the most recent findings and settlements from the Conflicts of Interest Board

8. Alex Kipp, COIB, to be the guest speaker for February Board meeting and March LRE meeting
  1. Chair redistributed "Community Board Plain Language Guide"
  2. He noted some of the topics that he asked Alex to address: Appropriate/inappropriate comments concerning elected officials, criticism or electioneering, Inappropriate actions of Zoom participants, interactions between Board members, staff and the public.
9. Possible change in bylaws to move election of officers and chairs from June to May so that there could be a month of internship for possible successors. However, chairs who were not reappointed may not know until after June. Charles Moerdler expressed impractical conflict of "Lame Duck" at June meeting. Committee felt unanimously not to recommend a modification to the bylaws.
10. Committee reviewed the current Ethical Guidance Manual procedures with respect to the activities of the Nominating Committee. Steve Froot offered a resolution to support rescheduling Nominating committee meeting dates. After a presentation by Steve concerning his rationale, chair suggested tabling the resolution to next month to allow members to digest the proposal.
11. Legislative spreadsheet – Spreadsheet was distributed to committee members and committee chairs.
12. Meeting adjourned 8:45. Next meeting Monday March 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Sosa

Reviewed by Martin Wolpoff