

Approved Minutes, as Amended
Law, Rules and Ethics Committee
October 23, 2025. 7:30 pm
Minutes – Amended

1. Meeting called to order at 7:38 pm

2. Attendance:

Present (5): Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Steve Froot, Vice Chair, Sylvia Alexander (via Zoom) Jessica Sosa, Jyll Townes,

Absent (2): Charles Moerdler, Sergio Villaverde

Guests: Julie Reyes (Board Chairperson), Laura Spalter, Ed Green, Amin Taycu (student), Maria Vasquez (student), Meguelina Esprinter (CSSNY)

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. LRE meeting September 8, 2025

Approved unanimously as amended

B. Joint Meeting with Land Use on September 30, 2025

In favor (4) Martin Wolpoff, Steve Froot, Sylvia Alexander, Jessica Sosa

Abstention (1): Jyll Townes

4. Chairperson's Report

A. Chair reviewed the LRE and Land use committees' concerns over the three November ballot items concerning zoning and the diminution of community and City Council input. He reviewed the 2018 letter from the City Law Department, the published letter in the Riverdale Press that was also sent to elected officials, and the competing literature sent by the City Council and the Real Estate Board.

B. Concern expressed over how the Community Board is prohibited from making any public statements or providing any resolution on these matters

C. Carry-over matters

1. Chair reviewed the resolution for the Bylaws change that was adopted by LRE in September. He plans to bring this resolution before the executive committee and the full Board at their October meetings. The Bylaws change provides for flexibility by committee chairs to structure vice chairperson configurations.

2. Committee then discussed a proposed resolution to clarify the procedure for filling mid-term vacancies in the positions of Board Chairperson, other officers, and committee chairpersons. The resolution seeks to break down the process for each position by creating separate paragraphs. The proposed resolution also clearly defines the order of succession, if necessary, for filling the Board's Chairperson's position. After discussion, the following Bylaws amendment was proposed:

Resolution to amend the bylaws of Community Board 8 Bronx

Whereas, there has been some confusion over the interpretation of the current Bylaws with respect to the filling of interim vacancies for the positions of Chairperson of the Board and committee chairpersons, Be it Resolved that Article V, Section 3 be replaced as follows:

Article V

Current Bylaw

Sec. 3 – Upon the death, resignation, termination of Board membership or removal of any officer or elected Committee Chairperson, the vacancy created shall be filled by the Board. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the position of the Chairperson for the remainder of the term. **The election to fill any vacancy shall take place upon written notice not later than the second regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy.**

The election procedure shall be the same as that set forth in Section 2 of this Article V, except that no nominating committee shall be elected and all candidates shall be nominated from the floor. Any officer elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term, and until a successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

[Added 3/9/04]

Suggested amendment

Sec. 3

Upon the death, resignation, termination of Board membership or removal of any officer or elected Committee Chairperson, the vacancy created shall be filled as follows:

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of Board Chairperson, the Board Vice-Chairperson shall assume the position of Board Chairperson for the remainder of the term. In the event a vacancy in the position of Board Chairperson cannot be filled because the Board Vice-Chairperson is neither available to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term nor available to serve on an interim basis until a special election to fill a vacancy in the position of Board Chairperson is held, in accordance with the special election procedure provided for in Subsection B of this section, then the Board Secretary, and if the Board Secretary is not available to serve, the Board Treasurer, shall assume the position of Board Chairperson on an interim basis until such special election is held.
- B. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of any other Board officer, a special election to fill such vacancy shall take place upon written notice not later than the second regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy. The special election procedure shall be the same as that set forth in Section 2 of this Article V, except that no nominating committee shall be elected and all candidates shall be nominated from the floor. Any such officer so elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term, and until a successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified.
- C. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of Committee Chairperson, a special election to fill such vacancy shall take place upon written notice not later than the second regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy. The special election procedure shall be the same as that set forth in Section 2 of this Article V, except that no nominating committee shall be elected and all candidates shall be nominated from the floor. Any such Committee Chairperson so elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term, and until a successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

Passed unanimously.

5. Analysis of 2024-25 CB 8 Award Presentations

Committee reviewed the present number of awards presented in the name of the Community Board. The committee noted that the committees offering such awards have identified their criteria, method for selection and have brought a resolution forward for the Community Board to approve. More work needs to be done with some of the awards and that discussion was put off until next month.

6. Anticipated report from working group on CB 8 committee structure – update

Chairman pointed out that we are anticipating a report from the working group, hopefully in December. He further noted that the timeline required for a Bylaws change to reconfigure the Board committee structure before the Nominating Committee can do its work in preparation for the June election of officers and committee chairs.

7. Latest settlements from NYC Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB)

Latest items from COIB were shared and discussed

8. NYC Council Spreadsheet

Chairman reported he had updated the City Council legislative spreadsheet and had it forwarded to LRE committee members and chairs of Community Board 8 committees.

9. Unfinished Business – None

10. New Business

Jessica asked if there was any update on the program designed to create mentorship relationships between new and experienced board members. Julie, the Board chairperson, was able to provide an update.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

12. Following the meeting Meguelina Esprinter, who had joined mid-meeting, was asked if there was anything she wanted to ask the committee or convey to the full Board. She handed out material concerning how the Community Service Society (CSSNY) is providing tuition debt relief and wanted people to know how to access such support.

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Sosa

Reviewed by Martin Wolpoff, Chairman LRE committee

Next Meetings – Monday, November 10, Monday, December 8, Monday, January 12, Monday, February 9, Monday, March 9, Monday, April 13, Monday, May 11, Monday, June 8.