

Law, Rules and Ethics Committee

Minutes

November 10, 2025

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:42PM
- II. Attendance
 - Present (5): Martin Wolpoff, Chairman, Steve Froot, Vice-chairman, Jessica Sosa, Charles Moerdler, Sylvia Alexander (ADA- Via Zoom)
 - Absent (2): Jyll Townes, Sergio Villaverde
 - Guest (2): Julie Reyes, Board Chairperson, Steve Mathews, Board member
- III. Approval of Minutes as amended per Steve Froot notes.
 - Approved unanimously
- IV. Chair's report
 - A. Results of Proposals on November ballot
 1. Issues to consider with passing of Propositions 2-4 – Several homeowners sell backyards to a developer who can propose new zoning of all back lots for a single development.
 2. Will community members flee Riverdale because of massive construction and zoning changes on the horizon?
 - B. Chair provided correspondence with the Conflict of Interests Board over advisory requested by Laura Spalter. She was advised, as an owner of a home nearby, that she could not vote on a resolution supporting nighttime lighting at Sid Augarten Field. Chair contacted the COIB using information produced by the COIB itself that “speculative” impact on property value should not prevent one from voting. The COIB advised that they would consider the matter at the next COIB Board meeting.
- V. Chair reported on the two resolutions for bylaws changes that were brought before the Executive committee and full Board.
 - A. Exec questioned whether the phrase, “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” also served as a minimum time limit. The committee felt that a 10-day notice of the agendas for upcoming meetings provided such minimum notice.
 - B. Both resolutions in support of bylaws amendments pertaining to filling midterm Board officer and committee chair vacancies and appointment of committee vice chairs passed at the October Board meeting. The second vote will be on the November agenda.
 - C. Julie asked how we update the Ethical Guidance Manual (EGM) if changes to the bylaws require conforming changes to the EGM. Following the second vote, the committee will address whether any such changes are required.
- VI. Anticipated Report from the working group on Board's committee structure-
 - A. Chair advised that the Board Chair at the last exec meeting announced that the term of the working group will end in December.
 - B. If there is no working group report, reviewing the committee organization structure can be put off for another year.
 - C. If there is no report to be considered, we may be able to cancel the December LRE meeting.
- VII. Reviewed the latest findings from the COIB.
- VIII. The chair noted that the latest NYC Council Spreadsheet had been distributed to LRE and the Executive committee members. He happily noted that he received one comment.
- IX. Unfinished business – none
- X. New business
 - A. Julie requested guidance on whether a resolution passed by the old Board in June with regard to its Budget priorities was still in effect when submitted by the new Board in the following term. The committee agreed that resolutions passed by the previous Board were still in effect if not superseded or overruled by later Board action.
 - B. There was discussion on the prerogative of a committee chair to withdraw a resolution that was adopted by a committee. The view has long been that resolutions are brought before the Executive committee prior to going to the full Board. On many occasions the

Executive Committee has raised sufficient questions that have induced the committee chair to withdraw the resolution and bring it back to the committee.

- C. There was a brief discussion of the potential for two new houses of worship being established within the community district. Such discussion also included whether such institutions were required to establish a parking lot.
- D. There was concern that several years back there was an attempt to utilize the former Kennedy residence as an events venue. The Board had rejected that proposal, but it has been reported that such an event took place at the site in recent months.
- E. There was a brief discussion on the question of whether a community committee member can be seated on either LRE or the Land Use Committee. It was confirmed that the bylaws are specific on this issue, the answer being “no.” It was further noted that attendance by a member of the community seeking to fulfill the three-consecutive-meeting requirement for purposes of qualifying for community committee member status must be in-person.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Sosa
Approved by Martin Wolpoff, LRE Chair

Next Meetings – Monday, December 8, 2025, Monday, January 12, 2026, Monday, February 9, 2026, Monday, March 9, 2026, Monday, April 13, 2026, Monday, May 11, 2026, Monday, June 8, 2026