

**Law, Rules and Ethics Committee
Meeting Minutes –June 14, 2017
Board Office**

Attendance

Present: Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Herb Young, Vice Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Rosemary Ginty, Irving Ladimer, Diego Santiago,

Absent: Charles Moerdler,

Community Attendees: Robert Press

Meeting called to order at 7:10

1. Approval of May minutes:

In favor: (6)- Martin Wolpoff, Herb Young, Sylvia Alexander, Rosemary Ginty, Irving Ladimer, Diego Santiago

Opposed: (0)

- 2. Discussion of City Council Legislative actions – Spreadsheets prepared by Ms. Ginty were distributed and reviewed. Ms. Ginty reminded committee that at the end of the calendar year all intros that have not been voted on and signed by the Mayor are dropped and the City Council begins with a fresh slate.**
- 3. Discussion of COIB findings – Committee discussed recent dispositions**
- A. Findings against a NYCHA worker who had been seeking employment with a contractor while still authorizing NYCHA payments to that firm.**
 - B. Situation in which an assistant principal had fraudulently obtained funds from a teacher. When she learned of the fraud, she demanded restitution.**
- 4. Discussion of this year’s nominating committee experiences**
- A. Did not encourage incumbents in non-challenged positions to request interviews.**
 - B. One incumbent sought candidacy for renomination, as well as for a second position. As learned from a recent CB 7 experience, since their bylaws were silent on the matter, there was nothing to bar such a situation. The committee considered the issue. It was generally felt it was unfair to board members were such a candidate not to inform the board that the chair position could become vacant. Chair was asked to bring to the next meeting wording for a change for the Ethical Guidance Manual that covered potential future situations. Such wording would be part of the public announcement made by the Board chair at the time of the April election of the nominating committee. The wording should include:**
 - a. Non-incumbents can apply to be nominated for the slate for several potential positions.**
 - b. Incumbents who wish to be considered for any other officer/chair position, although they can be considered for renomination, must announce that they are vacating their current position.**

- C. As with all other activities of the board, the nominating committee is subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law. This was the first time a member of the press sat in during interviews.
 - D. For the first time, the nominating committee filed minutes of its activities.
 - E. The committee did not consider the chair positions for the board's two ad hoc committees for which the board must vote to extend such committees and establish its membership
 - F. Members who wish to be considered for the nominating committee need to be aware that they need to be available during the period when the committee will be meeting and deliberating.
5. Old Business
- A. Civics presentations – Chair reviewed process followed by the civics subcommittee including many meetings to determine scope and content for the presentation(s), potential venues, etc. Chair wrote to potential venues offering the presentations. Kingsbridge library was the only respondent. Following a meeting at the Kingsbridge library, the matter was referred to central NYPL. Following approval, an invitation was extended from both the Kingsbridge and Riverdale branches. Two presentations were made at both branches. Except for members of the civics subcommittee and library personnel, attendance was minimal.
 - B. Mr. Ladimer suggested that, if he wanted it, we should share our presentation materials with Senator Rivera.
6. New business
- Ms. Ginty requested that the committee review the policy concerning board member contacts with the press. It was agreed that, as private citizens, board members can write to, or be interviewed by the press. However, such citizens must make it clear that they are offering personal opinions and are not authorized to speak on behalf of the board. For the September meeting, chair will offer wording for consideration.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Wolpoff