

LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE
Minutes – Pending committee approval
May 14, 2018
Board Office

Present: Martin Wolpoff, Chair, Herb Young, Vice-Chair, Sylvia Alexander, Dan Padernacht, I.W. Stone, Rosemary Ginty (Ex-Officio),

Absent: Irving Ladimer

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

1. Since a copy of the minutes were not available at the night of the minutes, a vote of approval was put off until the June meeting.
2. Discussion of City Council legislative spread sheet
 - A. Ms. Ginty distributed the March – April, 2018 spreadsheet. The new items were reviewed with an interest in which board committees might be most interested.
 - B. Discussion focused on item 0241-2018 which calls for a Mayoral City Charter revision commission. It was also noted that the City Council is planning for its own commission. However, the Mayor's effort, by law, takes precedence. The Mayor's commission has met several time for public hearings. The hearing in the Bronx was poorly advertised and poorly attended.
 - C. It was noted that there were press reports that the Mayor had challenged the City Council for trying to micromanage.
3. Discussion of COIB findings
 - A. Chairman distributed copies of the latest dispositions from the NYC Conflict of Interest Board. Committee lamented how foolish people appear to be when engaging in obvious acts of conflicts of interest. In this month's review, the committee was surprised by the appearance of the former Brooklyn District Attorney, who was fined \$20,000, and some members of his staff, for having used his office and staff for his own re-election bid.
 - B. The Chairman indicated the need to again review with the board COIB's "Plain Language" listing of Ethical Conducts list, especially in light of a report that a board member made unauthorized attempts to use board membership to lobby for a personal, non-committee, intervention. Specifically, "Misuse of Office. Public servants may not use or misuse their position to financially benefit themselves, their family members or anyone with whom they have a business or financial relationship."
4. New Business
 - A. The committee began discussion of the bylaws with reference to membership on the land use committee.
 - a. All board members must be members of two committees AND be a member of land use.
 - b. Is land use a standing committee or a committee of the whole?
 - c. Can a board member who chooses not to attend land use meetings subject to removal?
 - d. What is the definition of a quorum for the land use committee, a majority of board members or a majority of those who signed up and attend land use meetings?
 - e. It was agreed that nothing be done at this time, but to pick up on this in September.
5. Next meeting
 - A. The next meeting will take place on June 11, 2018
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:35

Respectfully Submitted,
Martin Wolpoff,
Chair