

**PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL**  
**LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2020 MEETING VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

Attendance: (4) Sylvia Alexander, Jyll Townes, Dan Padernact, Martin Wolpoff  
(Chair)

Absent: (0)

Guests: RCaraballos Lisa Daubs Nicholas Fazio, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty  
(Ex Officio)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15. There was a slight delay due to difficulties with Zoom.
2. Introduction of committee members and guests
3. Approval of May minutes  
Jyll noted that the starting time recorded in the minutes was not correct. The starting time should be noted as 7:35 PM.

Minutes approved as amended: (4) Sylvia Alexander, Jyll Townes, Dan Padernact, Martin Wolpoff (Chair)  
Disapprove: (0)

4. Discussion of draft changes to EGM concerning street co-namings for sections of parks and historical landmarks
  - A. Chairman had distributed to committee members a draft revision of street co-naming guidelines for the Board 8 Ethical Guidance Manual (EGM). He requested committee members to review the draft prior to the meeting and offer comments. Dan offered comments which the chair accepted as friendly amendments.
  - B. Rosemary expressed concern that the revised guidelines take into account what was recently updated on the Board's website.
  - C. Calendar – The resolution, if approved, will be sent to the executive committee in October. Again, if approved, will go to the full board in also in October.
  - D. Resolution:

Items marked in **red** represent new language and additions. Items underlined represent items that have previously been approved by the full Board. (personal note: Unbeknownst to the Chair, the Guidelines had been updated and posted on the CB 8 website. While it includes any of the changes sought, it is not as expansive and informative as the present proposal. The Guidelines posted should have been vetted by the LRE committee. I have reviewed the proposal in light of those posted.)

## **Community Board No. 8 Mandatory Standards for co-naming of a street, or park (or part thereof) in honor of a person:**

The guidelines herein shall be used by Bronx Community Board 8 in determining its support for co-naming a street or section of a park in honor of a person or building/institution of historical significance.

- Community Board Mandatory Standards for streets and park sections
  1. Honoree must be deceased.
  2. Honoree must be nominated by 3 or more organizations which are on the list required to be kept by the Community Board under the new City Charter.
  3. Honoree must have demonstrably benefited the community as, for example;
    - i. Time: if honoree has devoted time to assist the community, a significant portion of such time should have been devoted on a volunteer basis, without remuneration; or
    - ii. Creativity: if honoree was a creative or artistic person, honoree must have been identified with community so as to increase local pride in the creative works of the honoree; or
    - iii. Heroics: if honoree places himself or herself in significant physical danger, above and beyond the call of duty to benefit or protect this community district and/or its inhabitants; or
    - iv. Elected Officials: honoree may be an elected public official, whose constituency included all or part of the Community Board district, in which case standard 3 (i) may be considered satisfied, because of the extensive nature of community involvement by public officials.
    - v. At least 2 years must have elapsed between decease of the nominee and the final vote by Community Board No. 8
    - vi. The location bearing the name should have a specific connection to the life or work of the honoree
- B. Community Board Mandatory Standards for **co-naming a street or park (or part thereof) in honor of building or institution of historical significance:**
  - i. The institution or building must be at least 30 years old.
  - ii. The institution, site or building must have a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community district, city, state or nation.
  - iii. The site or building must be nominated by 3 or more organizations which are on the list required to be kept by the Community Board under the new City Charter.
  - iv. The location bearing the name change should have a specific connection to the institution, site or building.

- v. The street co-name change should not engender confusion (i.e., too many other similar names in the vicinity).

- Community Board Discretionary Standards

In addition to the mandatory standards contained herein, the Community Board may look to the following Discretionary Standards in determining whether to support the of co-naming a street or park (or part thereof) in honor of building or institution of historical significance in honor of a natural person or building/institution:

4. Honoree's impact should be of the widest possible cross-section of the community (i.e., benefiting a neighborhood rather than a single building). Upon nomination by 3 or more community groups, the proposed name change will be referred to the Traffic and Transportation Committee in the case of a street co-naming or the Park and Recreation Committee in the case of a Park (or part thereof) co-naming, which will upon written notice, consider the proposal within the next 90 days and recommend acceptance or rejection
5. The nominating organizations should reflect the diversity of the community district.
6. The honoree should be associated with creation of **a** specific neighborhood project (a park, a youth program, tenants group, etc.) or with aid to those in need (youth, elderly, the poor, the disabled, etc.) or with work which has bettered the lives of a wide population and has reflected credit on this community district, or with exceptional valor and heroism beyond the call of duty.
7. Special consideration will be given where honoree's death was untimely or occurred in the course of honoree's community work.

- Procedure

1. Upon nomination by 3 or more community groups, the proposed name change will be referred to the Traffic and Transportation Committee in the case of a street co-naming or the Park and Recreation Committee in the case of a Park (or part thereof) co-naming, which will upon written notice, consider the proposal within the next 90 days and recommend acceptance or rejection.
2. The Executive Committee, at its first meeting following the vote on the proposal by the Traffic and Transportation Committee or Parks and Recreation Committee, will consider the proposal upon written notice, and may recommend acceptance or rejection of the name change.
3. After the first approval by a Committee of the Community Board, but, in any event before the vote of the full Board, consent to the proposal must be obtained from the family of the honoree (usually, through the next of kin). After eliciting consent, the process may continue.
4. Any Committee vote shall also include the reasons for approval or rejection, under these standards.

5. Following the vote by the Executive Committee, any of the following may bring the matter onto the agenda of the next meeting of Community Board No. 8:
  - i. the Traffic and Transportation Committee in the case of a street co-naming;
  - ii. the Parks and Recreation Committee in the case of a Park (or part thereof) co-naming;
  - iii. the Executive Committee;
  - iv. any member of the Board.
6. Once added to the agenda, upon written notice, to the members the proposal will be submitted to a vote at two successive Board meetings (unless it is defeated at the first vote of the Board). Two successive affirmative results are necessary (one at each of two monthly meetings) to approve the name change.
7. The above schedule may be extended whenever any committee, or the Board, decides it needs further information. In such case, consideration of the proposal, may be tabled month-to-month, until such information is obtained.
5. Decisions of COIB - Chairman offered the latest settlements from the COIB. There was a brief conversation'
6. Legislative Spreadsheet - Chairman had forward two spreadsheets to committee members. The first is a listing of legislation before the City Council. The spreadsheet is sorted by committees. Items raised by local Councilmembers have been highlighted. The second spreadsheet is focused entirely on items offered by our local Councilmembers. Unfortunately, the format of the spreadsheets did not permit committee members to open them. They will be resent.
7. Old Business - None
8. New business
  - A. As part of the report provided by the 2020 nominating Committee, which was widely distributed there were four recommendations; all of which were directed to the LRE committee. The chairman sought an initial discussion of the items. A more serious discussion will take place in September.
  - B. Rosemary opined that Nominating Committee's report had not yet been formally presented. She reiterated that the discussions were purely that.
  - C. Nominating Committee Recommendations:

*In the course of its work, the Nominating Committee encountered circumstances or faced issues that have led the members of the Committee to recommend the adoption or consideration of certain additional rules and procedures to aid future nominating committees in meeting their responsibilities.*

*Those recommendations are as follows:*

1. *Under current procedures, the practice has been for the nominating committee to convene a brief meeting shortly after its formation, without advance notice to the public, for the limited purposes of selecting its first meeting date, setting an*

*agenda therefor, and issuing the required notice (as described above) to current officers and committee chairs. Furthermore, in order to provide sufficient public notice of its next meeting, the nominating committee may need to wait up to 10 days or more before that meeting takes place, preventing the committee from addressing such items as the election of a chair, the determination of the number and timing of future meetings to be noticed, the status of the required notifications from current officers and chairs, the sending of required communications to Board members, and the procedures for candidate interviews, among other policy and organizational issues. To alleviate this problem, this Committee recommends that the Board consider providing advance public notice of several nominating committee meetings at the same time public notice of the full Board meeting in April is issued. The nominating committee meetings so noticed should include a meeting to immediately follow the conclusion of the April Board meeting; a meeting five (5) business days from the day immediately following the April Board meeting; and one or two meetings on additional dates (such as the day following the April Board meeting and the sixth (6th) business day from the day immediately following the April Board meeting) to accommodate any nominating committee members who may face scheduling conflicts with a particular meeting date. Since, by design, not all of the noticed meeting dates will ultimately be needed by the Committee, notices can be issued cancelling any unnecessary meetings.*

*2. The Nominating Committee recommends that the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee and the Board amend the Ethical Guidance Manual to require that current officers and committee chairs not only notify the nominating committee within five (5) business days from the formation of the committee of their intention not to be considered for renomination, but also to notify the nominating committee in the same time period of their intention to seek renomination to their current position.*

*3. The Nominating Committee recommends that the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee and the Board amend the Ethical Guidance Manual to prohibit a member of the Board from requesting to be considered by the nominating committee for nomination and/or renomination to more than one of the then-existing officer and committee chair positions.*

*4. Although the Committee recognizes that it would entail additional meeting time to conduct more interviews, a majority of the Committee recommends that future nominating committees consider requiring interviews of all Board members seeking renomination to their current positions (a requirement this Committee did not impose), and that the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee and the Board give consideration to amending the Ethical Guidance Manual to require interviews of all Board members seeking nomination or renomination to an officer or committee chair position. Although we recommend for election those individuals listed on the slate of nominated candidates below, we emphasize that it is the role of the Nominating Committee only to recommend, and that it is up to the full Board, by their votes at the June Board meeting, to decide. Please also note that*

*additional candidates for any position may be nominated from the floor at the June meeting.*

- D. LRE committee members expressed various opinions without expressing censuses on any of them. The discussion will resume in September.
8. Adjournment – 8:35 P.M.