



Diane Collier
Chair

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District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Bylaws Committee April 7, 2016 - 6:30 PM Board Office

***** Minutes *****

Present: Jose Altamirano, Judith Febbraro, Alex Kohen, Nilsa Orama, Jonathan Winstone, Mia Brezin (staff)

Excused: Joseph Goldbloom, Jewel Jones, Steven Villanueva

Absent: None

Guests: Frances Mastrota (CB11 Member)

1. Call to Order - Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. Nilsa Orama made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jose Altamirano and passed unanimously.

2. Updates on Manhattan Borough President's Office Bylaws Meeting

Nilsa Orama gave an overview of the Manhattan Borough President's Office Bylaws meeting held at the end of March. She spoke about the concerns raised by other Community Boards and discussed the template that was circulated at the meeting. She also stressed that reviews of attendance is at 6 months as outlined in the Charter. Judith Febbraro noted that Diane Collier also attended the meeting.

Alex Kohen stated that the Bylaws Committee will try to mirror the format and recommendations in the template given by the MBPO office when incorporating discussed changes suggested by the committee.

3. Discussion Concerning Article I and Full Board Removal

Alex brought up the full board removal process discussed in last month's meeting and the concern expressed by CB11 Chair Diane Collier regarding the proposed ability of the full Community Board to remove a member without any recommendation or process conducted by the Executive Committee. Alex explained the overview of the removal process and that generally speaking the process of removal would begin with the Executive Committee, or any subcommittee appointed on its behalf and there would be a recommendation for removal and the due process would begin. If there is no recommendation for removal, that would end the process. In the event that there is

basis for removal and no action is undertaken by the Executive Committee, then the option is available that a Community Board member can make a motion to remove a member for cause at the full board.

The committee proceeded to discuss the various options for how to proceed including, (1) permitting removal only pursuant to the Executive Committee's recommendation, (2) permitting removal by the full Board without Executive Committee recommendation if recommended by a community board member pursuant to a motion (and potentially with a minimum number of supporting votes) requiring the Executive Committee to begin the removal process or (3) permitting the full Board to conduct the removal process as contemplated.

In the discussion, various viewpoints were expressed. The discussion focused on the possibility that there should be a check on the power of the Executive Committee but that there also needed to be a check on the power of a single member to cause the removal process to be unnecessarily triggered. Jonathan endorsed the idea of an alternate course of action to serve as a check and balance kind of mechanism.

Jose asked if the Manhattan Borough President office must act on removals. Alex explained that there was no requirement that the Borough President act and that either the community board or the Borough President could conduct a removal, without consultation with the other.

Committee members expressed opinions that if the Executive Committee feels that a member, after undergoing due process should not be removed and determines to keep the member, then perhaps that should not be brought to the boards attention during a full board meeting. At present, the Executive Committee goes through the due process procedure and even if they determine to keep the member, the matter still goes in front of the full board. Several members suggested that only those recommended for removal should be discussed at the full board meeting and a vote undertaken.

The language drafted last month into the working document was revised to reflect current committee discussion. After further review and discussion, the committee agreed that there can be a recommendation for removal from the floor of a full Community Board meeting but such recommendation must trigger the Executive Committee review process. If the Executive Committee continues to not present a recommendation to the full Community Board, the full Community Board may then proceed to commence a removal process if so desired.

4. Plans for April 7 Meeting

The committee started to review the Elections Process section as drafted in the working document. Jonathan read the sections and each was discussed. The timing of elections came up and Nilsa stated that election timing had been discussed at the Manhattan Borough President's meeting on bylaws and that it will be further looked at by the Borough President's office. The committee felt that the CB11 elections should stay in the same time period. The name "Elections Committee" (changed from Nominating Committee) was drafted into the working document as that title mirrors most of the actions that the committee actually takes. The Elections Committee would comprise of a minimum of 5 members (Chair and 4 others appointed by the CB 11 Chair). Nilsa Orama suggested that for synergistic purposes that the CB11 Chair consider conferring with the appointed Elections Committee Chair in the selection process of other committee members.

Discussion of Section B, C and D of the current CB bylaws and the proposed draft will be held in the next meeting. The next meeting will delve deeper into the elections process and the conversation regarding officer roles will begin.

Alex stated that he will also try to revise the committee meeting suggestions and notes into the draft of sample Manhattan Borough President community board by-laws template and will continue that process going forward so that we align with their recommendations.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

None.

7. Announcements

The next Bylaws Committee meeting will be held on May 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Community Board 11 office.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jose Altamirano at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Judith Febraro and passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Alex Kohen and Nilsa Orama.