

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Technology Committee
Joint Meeting with the Rules and By-Laws Committee
Monday, October 2, 2023 - 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Rebecca Dangoor, Edward Hartzog, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, Judy Schneider, Chuck Warren.

Co-Chair Rebecca Dangoor called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. She welcomed people to the meeting and recapped that the discussion would be about the continued use of hybrid and virtual CB8 meetings and streaming CB8 meetings via Zoom - with a focus on the following four questions: 1) Will we allow hybrid participation? 2) Will we allow elected officials to participate virtually? 3) Will we allow members of the public to participate virtually? 4) Will we livestream all CB8 meetings?

James Juliano, District Director from Assembly Member Alex Bores' office spoke and presented a bill introduced by Assembly Member Bores, which if passed would allow community boards to continue meeting virtually. Juliano explained that the bill only applies to community boards in cities with populations above 1 million therefore it only applies to New York City. This bill was introduced since the current law allowing for virtual meetings expires in 2024. Juliano assured that he will get back to us about whether the bill will include anything about funding to support virtual meetings since our current Zoom account is paid for through funding covered by the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

A discussion went on for approximately one hour with various members of the Board speaking about the pros and cons of virtual, hybrid, and in-person meetings. In addition to others, the following points were made by Board members:

- It's generally been easier to get guest speakers to attend committee meetings since they've been virtual
- For full board meetings, the hybrid option is technologically challenging (hard to hear speakers, feedback from audio, etc)
- For full board meetings, if meetings are virtual, we lose the synergies and connections that take place during in-person meetings
- For full board meetings, it's better to be in person as it shows a level of commitment by both board members and members of the public
- It's important that we have an option for board members who have accessibility, travel, or health issues to be able to join full board meetings virtually
- Committee meetings are easier to have and better attended when they are held virtually
- To increase audio connection, we should consider having high quality hand-held microphones available for in person full board meetings

A resolution was proposed in support of extending hybrid meetings indefinitely beyond the current law which expires in 2024.

Resolution for Approval: Extension of Temporary Hybrid Meetings

Resolution in support of extending hybrid meetings, with a strong preference that board members and elected officials attend full board meetings in person unless they have extraordinary circumstances for being unable to attend in person.

WHEREAS the New York State Opens Meetings Law (to which all Community Board meetings are subject) was amended on April 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS the New York Charter mandates Community Boards hold a Full Board meeting in all months except July and August, and both the Full Board and Land Use Committee meetings are mandatory attendance for all members; and

WHEREAS the new provisions permit modified hybrid meetings in which there is a quorum of board members present at one or more specific in-person locations or participating virtually with a qualified disability; and

WHEREAS the in-person locations are able to provide for attendance by the public; and

WHEREAS board members are expected to participate in-person unless they are experiencing extraordinary circumstances such as disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, severe inclement weather, or any other significant or unexpected factor which precludes the member's physical presence at such meeting; and

WHEREAS where a member attends virtually, the name and specific reasons for virtual attendance be noted in the board minutes; and

WHEREAS any members participating virtually cannot be counted toward quorum; and

WHEREAS the member appearing virtually must at all times be continually visible on video with identification; and

WHEREAS a hybrid meeting provides for the public to attend remotely and participate in the public session as those members of the public attending in person; and

WHEREAS a hybrid meeting will utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended, and corresponding guidelines; and

WHEREAS notices of hybrid meetings will be identified as such, in addition to listing the physical location(s) where the public can attend, and will provide information as to how the public can participate virtually. The notice will also state where members of the public can locate documents relevant to the matters to be considered at the meeting; and

WHEREAS the minutes of hybrid meeting will be posted within the time set forth in Sec. 106 of the POL, (two weeks) and that a transcript of the meeting will be available on request; and

WHEREAS the in-person attendance requirements will not apply during a declared disaster emergency by the state or the city;

WHEREAS on June 15, 2022, Community Board 8 Manhattan voted unanimously to hold hybrid Full Board and Land Use meetings;

WHEREAS Community Board 8 Manhattan continues to see a public benefit and value in having the option for virtual participation by members of the public as well as for board members in extenuating circumstances;

WHEREAS some members of the public and Board members have accessibility and health reasons that do not permit them to attend Full Board and Land Use meetings in person;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Board 8 Manhattan will move to extend hybrid Full Board and Land Use Committee meetings indefinitely, with a strong preference for Board members and elected officials to attend full board meetings in person.

Approved Board Members: 12-0-0 (Yes: Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Rebecca Dangoor, Edward Hartzog, Craig Lader, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, Judy Schneider, Chuck Warren.

Old Business. There were no old business items.

New Business A suggestion was made that we look at our by-laws at large and see if the next CB8 chair should form a committee for by-laws to be reviewed - this committee would be separate and apart from the Rules & By-Laws committee. After discussion, it was decided to leave things in the Rules and Bylaws Committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:28pm.

Rebecca Dangoor, Chair, Technology Committee

Taína Borrero, Rebecca Dangoor, and Charles S. Warren, Co-Chairs Rules and By-Laws Committee