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Bylaws Working Group

During the month of January, the Bylaws Working Group (“BWG”) of Community Board 2, Manhattan held two virtual meetings via Zoom.

Meeting 1

Date: January 4th (at 6:30 pm)

Committee Members Present: Susan Kent (Chair), Katy Bordonaro, David Gruber, Patricia Laraia, Matt Metzger, and Kristin Shea

Other CB2 Members Participating: Carter Booth (CB2 Chair), Michael Levine, Donna Raftery

Agenda: Continued discussion of public members and their roles on CB2’s committees.

The BWG first briefly discussed the proposed statement of core values and principles that was to be the subject of the Group’s January 11th meeting. It was agreed that the document would be distributed to the Members no later than the Friday before the meeting to ensure everyone a meaningful opportunity for review and comment. The Group also determined that when presented for a vote by the Board, a two-thirds supermajority would be required for passage.

The BWG then turned to its announced agenda item: public members (*see* Bylaws Section 6.c.ii.). The discussion focused on the following two issues:

- Appointment of public members - There was agreement that a more robust application should be developed, similar to the one utilized by the borough president’s office to evaluate community board applicants. Also discussed was the value of giving special recognition to the applications of former Board Members. The consensus was that absent the elimination of term limits, the ability to appoint former Board Members as public members could prove critical to retaining expertise and institutional knowledge.

- Voting - The focus was on the tallying of votes in committee. A consensus was reached that not only should CB2 continue to require that the votes of public members be tallied separately from those of Board Members, but that henceforth only the votes of Members should count towards the determination of a committee's position, as officially reported to the full Board. This decision was rooted in the fact that public members are not subject to the Rules of NYC's Conflict of Interest Board and that it would not be appropriate to give all committee members' votes the same weight when those casting the votes were not all held to the same standards. The key value of public members -- their participation in committees' debates and their ability to shed light on matters discussed -- would remain unaffected.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm.

Meeting 2

Date: January 11th (at 5:15 pm)

Committee Members Present: Susan Kent (Chair), Katy Bordonaro, David Gruber, Patricia Laraia, and Matt Metzger

Committee Members Absent with Notice: Kristin Shea

Other CB2 Members Participating: Carter Booth (CB2 Chair), Valerie De La Rosa, Michael Levine, Donna Raftery, Sandy Russo

Agenda: Discussion of feedback on a proposed statement of core values and principles of conduct.

This meeting was held to enable Members to share their thoughts and concerns with the Working Group regarding the proposed statement of principles that had been circulated for consideration at the January Board Meeting. This statement had been developed by the Working Group to embody certain values and ideals it believed Members should demonstrate through their conduct and choices during all meetings and in their interactions with the community at large.

Three days prior to the meeting the draft had been circulated and feedback was received from two Members (B. Pape & S. Russo), both of whom expressed interest in seeing a more detailed response to concerns over interruptions during meetings and generally maintaining order.

Although the Working Group had previously reached a consensus that the proposed statement was ready for introduction to the full Board for a vote, after strong opposition from S. Russo to the text and an interest by the Working Group to introduce in the future detailed rules of

order and procedure that would supplement those currently embodied in Roberts' Rules of Order, the Working Group agreed that the proposed statement not be submitted for consideration by the full Board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan Kent, Chairperson