

MINUTES OF MEETING #3

BYLAWS AD HOC COMMITTEE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010 IN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE VALLEY PLAZA LIBRARY 6:30PM TO 8:00PM

Attendance: Florence Dorick, Inez Morin, Sarah Ramsawack, and Mentor, Stu Simen.

The Minutes of the meeting #2 of November 16, 2010 were read.

The question was asked of the participants to give their vision of our purpose.

Our bylaws mentor, Stu Simen said that changes are still being issued and that our Wire Frame has been reduced from 16 Articles to 14 Articles.

We began a cursory review of the BYLAWS ANALYSIS forwarded to all councils from DONE.

Some of the issues discussed related to vacancies and to quorums. These issues are the two Articles that were deleted. Quorums will come under the Meetings. Vacancies will go under Governing Board in the new Table of Contents.

The definition of quorum is recommended to be 1/2 of the number of seats plus one. (We noted that 1/2 of 15 is 7.5 which suggests that our quorum might be more correctly defined as 8 board members, rather than 7. We also noted that at this point we are still in a point of discovery and discussion and that nothing is final.)

Some discussion about youth and the two different ages we have in the current Bylaws. Currently, under Article IV, Section 4, Election of Board Members, Item C. says, "All stakeholders aged sixteen and above shall be entitled to **vote in the Neighborhood Council elections.**" Then under the same Article IV Section 2, Number and Eligibility, it says, "Members of the Board shall be at least eighteen years of age." This is one example of an area that may need more clarification and refinement.

More discussion was on the movement toward standardization of Bylaws for the existing 92 Neighborhood Councils, and the mandate that we do follow the Table of Contents. The direction from DONE is that we must do the work toward standardization, or DONE will create and apply the Bylaws on the specific Neighborhood Council that does not comply.

Discussion followed on how votes are to be recorded: the exact count of yes votes, and the exact count of no votes, and any abstentions. Stu indicated that we should indicate in our new bylaws exactly how we count the abstentions, i.e., whether they are

abstentions or the absence of a vote. Further, Stu said that abstentions should be counted as abstentions because when people abstain from voting, that is exactly what they mean. The names of the persons who abstain should not be used unless it is requested by a board member, by an officer, or by a stakeholder.

The definition of excused absences and unexcused absences was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

The next meeting will be on Tues, Dec. 14, 2010, at 6:30pm in the Valley Plaza Library.