



Wards 4 & 7 NPA Special Meeting: Bylaws Subcommittee Meeting #1

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2024 | 5-6 p.m.

In person: Miller Community Center, 130 Gosse Court

Virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494151752>

ATTENDEES: Maricela Constantino, Carmen George, Deb Bouton (Bylaws Subcommittee members); Vicki Garrison, Hank Prensky (NPA Steering Committee members)

Facilitator: Carmen George

Note Taker: Deb Bouton

FILE SETUP & ORGANIZATION, INTRODUCTIONS, ROLES, MEETING PROCEDURES

- “Bylaws” folder created within the NPA folder on Google Drive
- We uploaded all bylaws documents our group has reviewed or is reviewing into that folder. These include the original (2008) W4/7 Bylaws and CEDO’s draft bylaws marked with edits suggested by Vicki prior to this meeting.
- Following brief introductions, all concurred that Carmen would facilitate and Deb would be notetaker. We then discussed how we will operate and agreed that we will run our meetings informally, with open discussions (i.e., not based on Robert’s Rules of Order or similar meeting structures).

BYLAWS DISCUSSION

- Should we use our 2008 Bylaws as the basis for updates or start fresh with CEDO’s version or another?
 - o Carmen: My understanding is that we would be editing the 2008 version. If we start with CEDO’s version we should be prepared to explain why.
 - o Maricela: The CEDO version is more friendly and inviting.
 - o Deb: Old bylaws feel too skimpy; need to be more substantial. CEDO’s definitely are but they still can be made more concise. Don’t feel the need to consider others, as CEDO’s seem to have pretty much everything we need.
 - o Hank: If we move to the CEDO version, do we need to have the full NPA first vote to abolish the 2008 bylaws?
 - Vicki: No, we are just revising our bylaws; we can do whatever we want because all we are doing is preparing a draft that the full NPA will ultimately vote on anyway.
 - Deb: Agree; if that is an issue, we can deal with it at that time.
- Vicki walked us through her edits to the CEDO version and explained her reasoning.
 - o She noted that it is not enough to add a non-discrimination section at the end; also, it

focuses on the negative — what you cannot do. Instead, she added words and phrases related to diversity, equity, inclusion, removing barriers, etc., throughout the document wherever it made sense and further clarified the intent.

- o Discussion re: term limits for steering committee members and how they could negatively impact marginalized community members. Unless and until our population of BIPOC residents increases, this could have the effect of limiting their representation on the steering committee.
 - Vicki noted that there are other mechanisms to remove members for cause.
 - Carmen proposed that we delete this section altogether. All agreed.
- This pivoted to a brief discussion of Robert's Rules of Order and how, as Carmen noted, it quells participation by those who are unfamiliar with the process. Several noted that it would be great to do away with Robert's Rules at our NPA meetings. Deb cited this as a resource for other options: <http://tinyurl.com/other-ways>

WRAP UP

- Decided to end the meeting at 6 p.m. as scheduled vs. continuing on.
- Carmen: Table until next meeting a discussion about adding two items to our bylaws:
 - o Sexual harassment policy (Vicki: call it gender and sexual harassment)
 - o A clear grievance policy
- Deb to create and distribute Doodle poll to all who attended this meeting to determine the date of next meeting
- Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.