

**Community Board 10 Special Board Meeting Attendance
June 6, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Board Members Present: 39

Salah Altayeb
Ibrahim Anse
Jonathan Bova
Teri Brennan
Tracie Britton
Barbara Buchalter-Pollack
Leodan Castillo
Shirley Chin
Judith Collins
Doris Cruz
Carmelo DiBartolo
Chris Elisson
Ann Falutico
Preston Ferraiuolo
Michael Festa
Senja Frangipani
Barbara Germack
Dianne Gounardes
Steve Harrison
Justin Hyatt
Jill Infantolino-Hajjar
Habib Joudeh
Stella Kokolis
Nikolaos Leonardos
Elizabeth Lovejoy
Essa Masoud
Ruth Greenfield Masyr
Robert Olivari
Dean Rasinya
Husam Rimawi
Joseph Sokoloski
Lawrence Stelter
Jana Taoube
Julie Thum
Sandy Vallas
Barbara Vellucci
Lori Willis
Michael Xie
Jack Zhang

Board Members Excused: 6

Jaynemie Capetanakis
Richard Day
Carmen Feliciano
June Johnson
Daniel Loud
Stephanie Simone-Mahaney*

Board Members Absent: 4

Daniel Hetteix
Anthony Marino
Nicholas Massab
Henry Stewart

*Covering another CB10 Meeting

AGENDA
COMMUNITY BOARD 10 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
JUNE 6, 2022; 7:00 pm
Over Zoom

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**CB 10 Virtual Meeting Options discussion
following guidance provided by
New York City Law Dept. See below.**

Discussion and Vote

"Community Boards can stay virtual as long as there is a New York State or New York City state of emergency in effect. The City state of emergency is likely to remain in effect for some time. However, in order to continue to have virtual meetings for the duration of the State or City state of emergency, your board needs to adopt a declaration at the beginning of its next meeting stating that there is a state of emergency in effect in New York State and New York City, and the circumstances of the state of emergency impair the ability of the board to have in person meetings.

If your board does not adopt such a declaration, beginning on June 9 it will need to hold meetings at which at least a quorum of its members are physical present at a location or locations that are physically accessible to members of the public.

MINUTES – CB 10 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 6, 2022, 7:00 pm over Zoom

Chair Willis reiterated the Agenda topic regarding the Open Meetings Law and the virtual option.

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If your board does not adopt such a declaration, beginning on June 9 it will need to hold meetings at which at least a quorum of its members is physically present at a location or locations that are physically accessible to members of the public.

Discussion began:

BM Vallas added that with COVID numbers fluctuating and the possibility of rising cases, we should vote to keep our options open and have the ability to hold remote meetings when necessary. He made a motion from the floor to keep our remote option open in the event we need to return to virtual meetings. The motion was seconded.

Chair Willis believes that when the numbers are high, the Chair would have the option to hold a virtual meeting rather than in-person and mentioned that at times CB 10 could not find a venue that would accommodate our meetings, since some of the locations we use are senior centers or spaces within senior housing complexes.

BM Falutico asked for clarification if this means that if a meeting notice was sent for an in-person Board Meeting, could the Board Member respond that they would prefer to participate virtually if they were not comfortable attending a large meeting.

BM Sokoloski asked if the June 13th meeting will be held virtually or in-person. Chair Willis clarified that we are scheduled to meet at Knights of Columbus in-person.

BM Rasinya noted that whether we meet in-person or virtually should be the call of the Chair and DM Beckmann, depending on the current circumstances.

BM Infantolino-Hajjar understands the pros and cons of meeting virtually or in person, adding that many people have other things to do, and she would prefer the individual Board Members to have the choice of attending virtually or in person. She goes between places and asked if there are any restrictions from NYC regarding personal choice.

Chair Willis explained that we were always required to follow the Open Meetings Law – in-person, at a location, where members of the public could attend, providing transparency and availability to the public. This is the law. What we are voting on tonight is a change to the Open Meetings Law where, in the event the Board is not able to do its business due to the COVID emergency, the Board can make a declaration that they can switch to remote. The

intent is not, and it is not within our purview to say we feel like going remote because we feel like staying home. We are bound by the Open Meetings Law as an arm of the government.

BM Stelter asked about the June 13th meeting and whether it will be in person or remote, and what the criteria and procedure would be to change the meeting format.

Chair Willis explained that the Board must have a quorum in-person at a location where members of the public can attend in-person, just like we did in the past. In the event of an emergency, we would have the option to go virtual if the Board could not conduct its business due to a factor brought about by the COVID emergency.

BM Stelter asked if Committee meetings will be back at the office or still remain virtual. Chair Willis believes that Committee meetings will be back at the office and that this loophole would apply to Committee meetings as well as Board Meetings. Again, it would give us the option to go virtual on a case-by-case basis as she understands the guidance from the Law Department.

BM Jack Zhang asked if we have any participation numbers pre and post the COVID emergency, especially from the community. He clarified his question – other than Board Members, has public attendance increased or decreased over Zoom? Chair Willis does not have specific numbers because prior to Zoom, the issues being discussed would determine the amount of people from the public who attended. An impactful issue would bring a larger group to attend an in-person meeting.

BM Thum asked if there could be a Zoom option for someone who is not able to attend and if there was not a quorum, could we switch to Zoom. Chair Willis explained that not everyone responds to meeting notices, some do not show up even though they responded that they would come – we just don't know until the very last minute if we reach a quorum or not, and if we do not have a quorum, we cannot conduct business. Also, setting up a hybrid meeting requires hiring outside vendors and budget funds.

BM Cruz mentioned that we recently had a Zoning Committee meeting with 40 members of the public joining, so Zoom works. While she likes the idea of a hybrid meeting, she realizes the logistics are a nightmare. She has seen a great deal of public input and participation in Zoning and T&T meetings recently, the Committees she is a member of.

Chair Willis explained that we are not voting on the law, we are voting on whether to give the Board the option to switch to remote if necessary.

BM Barbara Buchalter-Pollack recalls reading that people would have the option to participate remotely if they had health concerns. DM Beckmann said there certainly was discussion about that, but we are voting tonight on what was presented by the Law Department.

BM Hyatt noted that it would save the city money if we continued our meetings over Zoom rather than hiring a vendor to attend in person to handle the livestream. Also, he added his observation about attendance over Zoom vs. in-person and feels that there is additional accessibility when meetings take place over Zoom.

BM Teri Brennan mentioned there is a hybrid meeting this evening at McKinley that is in person and is being livestreamed to Senator Gounardes' page. It is fully transparent since anyone who wants to can see and hear it, so technically she believes it is all do-able. NYC Health Officials are making commercials not to gather in large groups. Whether there's a

quorum or not a quorum, health has to take precedence and we are still in a very fluid situation. She knows more than a dozen people in Bay Ridge currently recovering from COVID or who are suffering from COVID, and we cannot put that aside. Making meetings available online is the most inclusive way to do it.

Chair Willis noted that the Open Meetings Law, a NYS Law, doesn't look at just the technicality of a hybrid meeting, it is talking about the voting members of the Board which is different than livestreaming to the public. So, there are two different layers. One is the Members of the Board who must be present to vote, the other layer is the accessibility to the public. The meeting this evening at McKinley is a panel discussion, it is not a vote, so it wouldn't be bound by this law. Chair Willis wants everyone to understand the difference in the distinction that the Open Meetings Law makes here. You can be home watching, however, that doesn't enable you to vote. The public can view it however they wish.

BM Gounardes clarified that the bottom line is that if we don't vote to include this in our protocol, then the discussion is finished. The issue is, in order to have options, we need to vote for it. She wanted to make that clear. She requested to move the question and vote.

Chair Willis did not want to silence anyone from speaking but requested that comments be limited to the issue here. There is a law in place, and we don't have the option to change that right now. The only question tonight in the motion is do we vote in favor of giving the Chair the option to go hybrid in the event a state of emergency prevents the Board from doing its business.

BM Salah noted that he is happy to be with us today.

BM Willis called the question:

Motion: Community Board 10 adopts a resolution and declaration that the Chair has the option to call a meeting remotely in the event that due to a New York State or New York City declared state of emergency or a circumstance arising from same, the Board is unable to conduct its business.

37 in favor. 1 opposed. Motion carried.