

**Greater Council of Manhasset Civic Associations
Bylaws Review 2008-2009**

November 18, 2008 by Rich Bentley, 1st VP

The 1976 document was the only document that members were able to retrieve. Other newer versions may have been in place, perhaps with additional amendments since 1976, but can not be located. Thus the 1976 Bylaws were reviewed and the following provides a basic list of Issues for discussion in order to determine if and what Bylaw Amendments should be pursued:

1. Incorporation: GC is incorporated (Inc.)
2. Change all current male gender pronouns ('He', His, to "He/She", "His/Her")
3. The named Civic Organizations... The listed orgs don't reflect 2008 'reality', need to be updated. Some Inc Villages have inactive Civic Associations, thus 'cut off' the intended inter-municipal forum role that the GC was intended to provide.

Inactive or non-existent civic associations leads to a GC that is not representative of the entire Manhasset community. As a matter of practice, GC began using the term "liaisons", so that a broader spectrum of Manhasset 'territories' and broad based organizations can participate in GC, while they formally do not vote in financial matters since they do not pay dues. Recommend bylaws add provisions for such non-voting organization status.

4. Council has an elected Secretary, as well as provision to appoint a paid Executive Secretary, if needed. GC has been functioning without paid services; leave as is.
5. Election Process: Should a formal nominating committee be named for the annual election process. I think it's been the recent practice in the past decade but no provision for it in this 1976 version of the bylaws.
6. Expenses of the Council. Currently prohibits contributions for charitable or philanthropic organizations. Spirit of the Rule vs. Actual Text. This is the type of language that lawyers debate on whether a specific donation is within or contrary to Bylaws.

The intent seems to have been to not make contributions in the GC name to generic local or broader philanthropic organizations (Manhasset Community Chest, The United Way, March of Dimes, Red Cross, etc.)? The GC may have bona fide 'charitable' organizations that provide meaningful tangible direct benefit(s) or projects to the Manhasset community that the GC may deem appropriate to contribute to. Examples: If Chamber of Commerce is incorporated, can GC donate to Chamber?, If CSM were to incorporate, would they be (or would we want to ban GC donations, Manhasset-Great Neck EOC programs, etc). The Council may want to modify the language so that we are not bound to the specific interpretation for otherwise beneficial community projects. Such lack of clarity allows misinterpretations; Example: some Incorporated Village attorneys to interpret/advise the villages being prohibited from paying annual dues to the Greater Council, since villages can't fund any projects/efforts outside village boundaries.

After presented to GC in 2008, no formal action was taken to revise the bylaws.

The 1976 GC bylaws, formally only active civic associations in good standing (defined as paying GC dues) are voting GC member associations. Quorum to conduct business requires a majority of dues paying member civic associations (ie: Quorum = 6 of 11 member associations).

GC has 11 dues paying member associations

1. Bayview Civic Association
2. Manhasset Park Civic Association
3. Norgate Civic Association
4. North Strathmore Civic Association
5. Plandome Civic Association
6. Plandome Heights Civic Association
7. Shorehaven Civic Association
8. South Strathmore Civic Association
9. Strathmore Vanderbilt Civic Association
10. Strathmore Village Civic Association
11. Terrace Manor Civic Association

Bylaws provide for any GC Past President to remain an active GC member provided they reside in Manhasset (bylaws call them "delegates at large" – Examples: both John Walter and Bill D'Antonio fall under that category). No reason to alter.

Welcomed to attend and participate in GC (we have been referring to them as non-voting liaisons): In 2008 a review of GC Bylaws suggested formalizing "liaison" organizations that fit the Purpose of the Council, but do not participate in funding/ financial matters. "The purpose of the Council is to provide a permanent organization through which the associations comprising its membership may exchange information concerning civic matters, determine appropriate actions to be taken. And thus be better prepared through their joint efforts to more effectively encourage and promote projects beneficial to the community of greater Manhasset and oppose projects considered detrimental to the community's best interests. These include:

(2017 update comments in italics)

1. Manhasset-Flower Hill Association (exists, but is unable to pay dues since it doesn't collect dues from its FH residents)
2. Plandome Park Association (exists, but does not pay GC dues; *had been approached several times but expressed no desire to participate in GC*) - The area west of Leeds Pond: Bayview Road Area; part of Vill Plandome Manor.
3. Plandome Mills Association (exists, but does not pay GC dues; *had been approached several times but expressed no desire to participate in GC*). The area east of Leeds Pond: Gristmill La, Papermill Rd, RockHollow Rd; part of Vill Plandome Manor
4. Plandome Manor Civic Association (defunct)
5. Munsey Park Association (defunct);
6. Coalition for A Safer Manhasset(GC granted Liaison status in 2008; Active participant)
7. Chamber of Commerce(GC granted Liaison status in 2008; Active participant)
8. Village of Plandome Manor (GC granted Liaison status in 2008; *Mayor is an active GC participant*)
9. Village of Munsey Park (GC granted Liaison status in 2008; *eList participant*)
10. Village of Flower Hill (GC granted Liaison status in 2008; *eList participant*)
11. Village of North Hills (GC granted Liaison status in 2008; *eList participant*)
12. Manhasset Preservation Society (GC granted Liaison status in 2008; *eList participant*)
13. *Manhasset Park District (GC recently granted Liaison status)*
14. *Manhasset CASA/Coalition Against Substance Abuse (GC recently granted Liaison status; Active participant).*

**BY-LAWS OF
THE COUNCIL OF GREATER MANHASSET CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, INC.
(Hereinafter called the Council)**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to provide a permanent organization through which the associations comprising its membership may exchange information concerning civic matters, determine appropriate actions to be taken. And thus be better prepared through their joint efforts to more effectively encourage and promote projects beneficial to the community of greater Manhasset and oppose projects considered detrimental to the community's best interests.

II. ELIGIBILITY

1. The Council shall comprise the following civic associations:

- Bayview Community Association
- Munsey Park Association
- Norgate Association
- Shorehaven Association
- Plandome Civic Association
- Plandome Mills Association
- Manhasset-Flower Hill Association
- North Strathmore Association
- Strathmore Village Association
- South Strathmore Association
- Strathmore Vanderbilt Association
- Manhasset Park Civic Association
- Terrace Manor/Association
- Plandome Park Association
- Plandome Manor Civic Association
- Plandome Heights Civic Association

- and each additional civic association whose members are determined by the Council to reside within the limits of greater Manhasset and which is approved by the members for inclusion in the Council by at least two-thirds of the votes that would be cast if all members were in attendance at the meeting in which the action is taken.

2. Each association represented in the Council shall be known as a member-association. Its authorized representatives shall be members of the Council.
3. Any member-association failing to have representation at five regular meetings held during anyone Council year shall be suspended from membership 'in the Council and notice to that effect shall be served on the President of such member-association. Any association so suspended may be reinstated to membership, following resumption of representation by at least two-thirds of the votes of the members present at the meeting.

III. AUTHORITY

The authority of the Council for any action it may take or opinion it may express depends upon the authority vested in the members by the associations they represent. Therefore, no action or expression of opinion by the Council is binding upon a member-association without its special approval, and statements issued by the Council shall be consistent with this provision. However, the Council may publicize its views.

IV. GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

1. Representatives of Associations

Each member-association shall appoint two representatives to serve on the Council. One of these representatives should but is not required to be the president of the member-association.

2. Officers and Delegates-at-Large

Subject to subdivision 3 of this section, the officers and delegates-at-large shall consist of the following, to be chosen from members of the Council, or former members with respect to subdivisions (e) and (f) below, and installed at the final meeting of the Council preceding the new Council year:

- (a) A President who shall be elected for a term of one year or until his successor shall be elected. He shall preside at all meetings when present and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall appoint such committees as may be necessary and these committees shall serve until discharged or until the expiration of the President's term.
- (b) A First Vice President and a Second Vice President, each of whom shall be elected for a term of one year or until his successor shall be elected. One of the Vice Presidents shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and when doing so shall perform all the duties of the President.
- (c) A Secretary who shall be elected for a term of one year, or until a successor shall be elected, and who shall perform the usual functions of this office. With the approval of the Council the Secretary shall be empowered to employ an Executive Secretary to perform the routine duties of this office or the Secretary may be compensated in an amount determined each year by the Council. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees appointed by the President.
- (d) A Treasurer who shall be elected for a term of one year or until his successor shall be elected and who shall perform the usual functions of this office.
- (e) Delegates-at-Large, not more than five in number, to serve for a term of one year or until their successors shall be elected. A Delegate-at-Large must be a member of a civic association having membership in the Council.
- (f) In addition to the elected delegates-at-large, the Council may invite to serve as delegate-at-large any past President of the Council residing in the greater Manhasset area, as determined by the Council. The Council may also invite any member or former member to serve as Counselor for a period to be determined by the Council.
- (g) In the event of a vacancy occurring among the officers or delegates-at-large during a Council year, the Council may elect one of its members to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term. Officers and delegates-at-large may be re-elected for succeeding terms whenever the Council considers its best interests will be served by doing so.

3. Conflict of Interest

No member shall qualify as an officer or delegate-at-large, or continue to serve if previously installed in such capacity, if engaged in an activity deemed by the Council to be in conflict with

the best interests of the Council. The council in its judgment may determine that a conflict of interest associated with a particular office presents no conflict with respect to a different office.

4. Voting

Except where otherwise provided herein, all actions taken by the Council require a majority vote of the members in attendance. Each member association is entitled to two votes regardless of the number of representatives present at the meeting. Each officer and delegate-at-large, if not also serving as a duly authorized representative of a member-association shall be entitled to one vote,

5. Meetings

The Council shall hold regular monthly meetings, except during the months of July and August, at such time and place as may be decided by the Council; however, the President shall be empowered to call special meetings whenever any such meeting in his judgment appears necessary or whenever requested by at least five members of the Council.

6. Quorum and Attendance

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of at least one representative from not less than 50% of the total number of member-associations, disregarding any fraction that results after application of the percentage

7. Committees

- (a) Transient problems may require special study to determine all the facts and considerations involved before arriving at conclusions. In such cases, the Council may either establish a Special Committee of its own membership to investigate. study and report on its findings or may recommend and help to organize an Inter-Association Committee for the purpose.
- (b) Matters needing continual study and investigation. thus making desirable the establishment of Standing Committees of the Council, are School, Tax, Traffic, Planning and other similar matters.
- (c) Members of Special Committees of the Council shall be appointed by the President to serve until the Committee's final report has been submitted but not beyond the end of the current Council year. If necessary, another committee will be appointed in the following Council year.
- (d) For the purpose of establishing an Inter-Association Committee. The President of the Council shall request member-associations to appoint representatives to serve on such committee and he or an authorized representative shall assist in the organization thereof.
- (e) Members of Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President from members of the Council to serve for a period of one Council year. At the beginning of the succeeding Council year the need for each Standing Committee will be re-evaluated if the President decides that a Standing Committee should be re-activated, he may either re-appoint the members who have served in the preceding year, or appoint new members.
- (f) The Chairman of each Committee shall be selected from among its members by the President of the Council.

- (g) The Chairmen of committees organized by the Council who are not members of the Council shall be ex-officio members of the Council without voting privileges and shall attend its meetings whenever practicable. When unable to attend in person, they may appoint a member of their committee to attend.

8. Expenses of the Council

Expenses of the Council and the Inter-Association Committees for stationery, mimeograph work, postage, and other authorized expenses will be defrayed by assessments upon the various member-associations. The amounts of such assessments shall be determined by the Council. Any member-association failing to pay its assessment within four months from receipt of the Statement from the Council shall be suspended from membership in the Council until such time as the assessment is paid. No fund of the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Association may be contributed to charitable or philanthropic organizations.

9. Council Year

The Council Year shall run from the 1st of June of each year through the following May 31st.

V. METHOD OF CHANGING BY-LAWS

These By- Laws may be amended provided the amendment is recommended by a majority vote of members in attendance and adopted at a subsequent meeting by a similar majority vote.