

Minutes of Ethics Hearing Board

September 7, 2017
Room 646, City-County Bldg.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Present:

Sister Janice Vanderneck
Gregory Monaco
Jeanette Ho
Patrick Bigley
Lynn Davenport

Linda King, Executive Manager
Shannon Overholt, Investigator
Matt Stidle, Esquire

- The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
- **Approval of minutes of the last two meetings**
 - Jeanette Ho made some grammatical changes to both the June 1st and August 3rd minutes. Following which, Sister Janice Vanderneck called for a motion to approve the June 1st, 2017 minutes. Patrick Bigley moved to approve the minutes and Greg Monaco seconded the motion. The motion was carried whereupon the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the amendments.
 - Thereafter, Sister Janice Vanderneck called for a motion to approve the August 3rd, 2017 minutes. Patrick Bigley moved to approve the minutes and Jeanette Ho seconded the motion. The motion was carried whereupon the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the amendments.
- **Update concerning the incoming board members**
 - The Executive Manager relayed that she received notice from the Mayor's Office that all nominees have been approved by the Mayor.
 - Assistant City Solicitor, Matt Stidle, explained that nominations will be presented to City Council on September 12th, 2017, at which time Council may decide to schedule interviews with the nominees.
- **Probable Cause Panel – new assignments**
 - The Board agreed to appoint new members to the Probable Cause Panel. Beginning September 1st, 2017, members Greg Monaco, Jeanette Ho, and Sister Janice Vanderneck will serve as the Probable Cause Panel until

December 1, 2017, at which time new members may rotate onto the panel.

- There was a discussion regarding whether or not it was sensible to retain at least one of the original PCP members to help the panel maintain a consistent working process when called upon to review complaints. There was general agreement on that point but no official policy was established.
- **Hiring of outside counsel is complete**
 - The Executive Manager confirmed that the hiring of outside counsel has been completed. Attorney William Ward has been hired as the Hearing Officer and Attorney Falco Muscante has been hired as the prosecuting attorney, who will present the case.
- **Discussion concerning the scheduling of hearings on the Campaign Finance Violations**
 - There was a discussion concerning scheduling the hearings in either late September or early October. Members agreed that September 25th or September 27th were the dates that all or most members were available.
 - Greg Monaco suggested having all 4 hearings on the same day. The Board generally agreed.
 - Board members discussed where the hearings would be held and how their deliberation process would operate. No official votes were made on these topics at this time.
 - The suggestion was made to have the hearings decided prior to the November election.
 - The Executive Manager stated that there is at least one candidate on the ballot who has a continuing obligation to file reports and has failed to do so. The Board will need to decide how to handle that situation. The Board did not decide to send additional reminders at this time.
 - It may be appropriate to initiate a second round of fines to candidates who continue to fail to file campaign finance forms. That issue will be revisited after this current round of hearings.
- **Comments and Announcements**
 - Sister Janice Vanderneck asked members whether there were any additional concerns or announcements. There were none. She called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patrick Bigley moved to adjourn and Greg Monaco seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Shannon Overholt and reviewed by Linda King