

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS HEARING BOARD

City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board (“Board”)
Video Meeting via Zoom and Livestreamed on City Channel YouTube
January 14, 2021

Board Members Present:

Pat Bigley
Sean Coleman
Lynn Davenport
Maryann Herman
Alex Matthews
Brazitte Poole
Jennifer Richnafsky

Board Members Absent:

Samantha Bushman
Rhoda Neft

Staff, Advisors and Others Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Manager

- Call to Order:
 - This monthly meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Board Chair, Alex Matthews.
- Public Comment:
 - There was none.
- Campaign Finance:
 - a. After an introduction by the Executive Manager, Maryann Herman moved to correct “Second Friday Pre-Primary Date” from May 14, 2021 to May 7, 2021. Jennifer Richnafsky seconded the motion. The Board Chair called for any questions or discussion. Being none, the members then voted unanimously in favor of the motion, with no oppositions or abstentions.
 - b. The amended regulation is as follows:

"The reporting dates and filing deadlines for the 2021 primary election is as follows:

 - i. Deadline of Monday, March 1, will cover the reporting period of January 1 to February 28, 2020.
 - ii. Deadline of Thursday, April 1, will cover the reporting period of March 1-31, 2020.
 - iii. Deadline of Friday, ~~May 14~~, May 7, (2nd Friday Pre-Primary date) will cover the reporting period to match that which is required by the Allegheny County Board of Elections 2nd Friday Pre-Primary Report.”
 - c. The Executive Manager discussed updating the campaign finance website and engagement. She discussed the possibility for collaboration with EngagePgh, League of Women Voters, and potential other groups and to increase civic participation and knowledge of municipal ballot items. Board

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members Maryann Herman and Brazitte Poole volunteered to contribute to brain storming sessions with these affiliate groups.

- d. The Executive Manager discussed other upcoming improvements to the campaign finance webpage:
 - i. Finalizing option for hosting link on website for new credit card option to pay late fines
 - ii. Share or link to voter resources
 - iii. Potential collaboration to create code and infographics to improve public engagement with campaign finance data
 - iv. Potential for the public to participate in uploading questionable mailers for feedback on which groups paid for the ad, participate in a survey, or to quantify the number of yard signs.
- The Board engaged in continued discussion of proposed regulations related to the new Code section on gifts from dignitaries. The Board reviewed a draft disclosure form and proposed regulations, and provided revisions, which the Executive Manager incorporated. Due to time limitations, the discussion on this matter will be continued at a future meeting.
- The Executive Manager briefly discussed a request to issue a report on best/ethical practices related to incentive programs. Concerns were raised about the ability to assist with this matter given the limited resources and staffing of the Ethics Hearing Board. The Board will seek to revisit this item when possible.
- The Executive Manager discussed her upcoming ethics trainings for Public Officials serving on a Commission and for a Public Employee.
- New Business: There was none.
- Adjournment:
 - At approximately 5:00 p.m., after confirming there was no new public comment or new business, the public portion of the meeting concluded and the Board adjourned into executive session. The executive session was called to privately discuss personnel matters as well as item(s) in the area of Complaints, Investigations and Hearings per Ethics Code Section 197.12.
- Next meeting dates:
 - All meetings will be held via video conference and livestreamed until further notice, with a link to the livestream posted on <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/ehb/ehb-meetings>, which also provides a full list of 2021 scheduled meetings.

Minutes prepared by Leanne Davis.