

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS HEARING BOARD

City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board ("Board")
Video Meeting via Zoom and Livestreamed on City Channel YouTube
January 26, 2021

Board Members Present:

Pat Bigley
Maryann Herman
Alex Matthews
Rhoda Neft
Jennifer Richnafsky

Board Members Absent:

Samantha Bushman
Sean Coleman
Lynn Davenport
Brazitte Poole

Staff, Advisors and Others Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Manager

- Call to Order:
 - This monthly meeting was called to order at 4:22 p.m. by Board Chair, Alex Matthews.
- Public Comment:
 - There was none.
- Minutes:
 - The minutes for November 12, 2020 were reviewed but not approved. Though there was quorum, there was an insufficient number of Board members available to constitute a majority vote on the motion. Three of the five members present abstained due to their absence at the November 12, 2020 meeting.
 - The minutes for November 19, 2020 were reviewed and moved to be approved by Jennifer Richnafsky. Pat seconded the motion, upon which a vote for their adoption was called. Maryann Herman abstained. The motion passed.
 - The minutes for January 14 were reviewed. Pat moved for the minutes to be adopted, with Maryann Herman seconding the motion. Rhoda Neft abstained. The motion passed.
- 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 constraints, the Executive Manager suggested that the discussion on this matter be continued at a future meeting, when the Board can review a draft with all of their suggested revisions adopted, as opposed to the current redline version.

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- The Executive Manager briefly discussed a request related to the proposal for additional voluntary disclosures from public officials. The Board discussed the benefits of such a practice, and noted that any such additional conflicts disclosure must supplement and cannot serve to replace the existing, diligent practice of recusal procedures set out by the State which have been adopted into our Code. Questions were raised as to whether new legislation should be proposed to require these disclosures. Programmatic concerns were also raised about the current 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 focusing on the Statement of Financial Interests disclosure, due May 1. She invited the Board members to attend if they would like to receive personalized assistance in completing the form. Additional training opportunities on a variety of focused topics were also discussed, to occur throughout the year.

- New Business: There was none.

- Adjournment:
 - At approximately 5:10 p.m., after confirming there was no new business, the Board adjourned.

- 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.