

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS HEARING BOARD

City of Pittsburgh Ethics Hearing Board ("Board")
Video Meeting via Zoom and Livestreamed on City Channel YouTube
February 2, 2020

Board Members Present:

Pat Bigley
Lynn Davenport
Maryann Herman
Alex Matthews
Rhoda Neft
Jennifer Richnafsky
Samantha Bushman
Sean Coleman
Brazitte Poole

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff, Advisors and Others Present:

Leanne Davis, Executive Manager
Alexander Fisher
William Lamar

Livestream began at 4:30pm

- Call to Order:
 - This monthly meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Board Chair, Alex Matthews.
 - Immediately preceding the meeting, the Board held an executive session to discuss administrative matters regarding attorneys from Meyer, Unkovic, & Scott helping fulfill the duties of Leanne Davis during her upcoming maternity leave as well as administrative items related to the scheduling.
- Public Comment:
 - There was none, no members of the public attending.
- Minutes:
 - The November 12, 2020 minutes were reviewed.
 - Leanne Davis suggested minor revision on attendance
 - Patrick Bigley moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Rhonda Neft seconded the motion. Maryann Herman and Jennifer Richnafsky abstained. The motion passed with no objections.
 - The January 26, 2021 minutes were reviewed.
 - Maryann Herman noted minor corrections.
 - Patrick Bigley moved to adopt the minutes. Rhonda Neft seconded the motion. Samantha Bushman, Brazitte Poole, Lynn Davenport, and Sean Coleman abstained. The motion passed with no objections.

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- I. New Business
 - a. Campaign Finance Regulations
 - i. The board held a robust discussion as to the deadlines for candidates subject to § 198 of the Code to file campaign finance reports.
 - ii. The board determined that due to delays in filing date by other agencies that the board should provide for delayed filing dates.
 - iii. Samantha Bushman moved to change the regulations and postpone the deadline to file City reports so that the filing deadline is seven days after the deadline to file state nomination petitions, and if the date falls on a weekend, it will instead be the next business day. And to coordinate the second filing date so that it falls thirty days after the first date.
 - iv. The motion was seconded by Brazitte Poole. There were no opposed and no abstentions.
 - b. Public Hearing Procedure
 - i. Discussion regarding COVID regulations permitting public hearings to be conducted in this virtual format. On the day we have public hearings that people might also be available to call in if there is a settlement. This is Sunshine Act compliant, we just need a majority of a quorum to approve a settlement. Everyone expressed assent to this plan.
- II. Old Business
 - a. Gifts from Dignitaries Legislation Update
 - i. § 197.07 (j) Gifts from Dignitaries. The board had extensive discussion on a proper definition of “dignitaries” in the scope of this section. The discussion ended without a vote on a definition. It was determined that counsel would come up with more suggestions to properly describe “dignitaries” to satisfy the goals of the Board.
- III. Adjournment:
 - a. At approximately 5:32 p.m., after confirming there was no new business, the Board adjourned upon motion by Brazitte Poole, seconded by Jennifer Richnafsky. None opposed or abstained
- IV. 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 Nick Bencsics, reviewed and approved by Leanne Davis.