



**Minutes for Meeting of
Thursday, April 9, 2015**

Item 1: Call to Order

Commission Chair John O'Neill called the meeting to order at approximately 5:05 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Present – Commission Chair John O'Neill, Commission Vice-Chair Clyde Fuller, Commissioners Faye Detsky-Weil, Alex Kreit, and Greg Zinser

Absent – Commissioners Deborah Cochran and Andrew Poat

Staff – Executive Director Stacey Fulhorst, General Counsel Christina Cameron, Program Manager Steve Ross, Investigator Lauri Davis, and Administrative Aide Jennifer Blasier

Item 3: Approval of Commission Minutes

Approval of Ethics Commission Minutes of March 12, 2015

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| Motion: | Approve |
| Moved/Seconded: | Zinser/Fuller |
| Vote: | Carried Unanimously |
| Abstained: | O'Neill |
| Absent: | Cochran, Poat |

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Item 5: Commissioner Comment

None

Item 6: Executive Director Comment

None

Item 7: General Counsel Comment

None

Item 8: Presentation by City Clerk Concerning Lobbyist Registration Fees

Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk, and Denise Jenkins, Elections Analyst, reviewed the informational report they provided to the Commission concerning lobbying fees and process improvements.

Commission Chair O'Neill asked how the direct and indirect costs of services provided by the City Clerk's office compare to the fees currently collected on an annual basis. Ms. Maland explained that she does not yet have this information because it is currently being compiled by the Financial Management Department. She added that she plans to obtain and analyze the data from Financial Management before she makes a presentation to the City Council Budget Committee in July.

Commission Chair O'Neill asked if the Clerk's office has received input from lobbyists concerning the fees. Ms. Maland responded that most of the input they have received to date concerns the ability to pay registration fees online.

Ms. Fulhorst expressed support for the Clerk's plans to upgrade the electronic filing system to enable parsing of data and search capabilities.

Item 9: Proposed Amendments to the City Charter

Commission Chair O'Neill asked if there was any resolution concerning the potential name change. Commissioner Zinser expressed his opinion that there is no pressing need for a name change; however, he reiterated his view that the Commission should make distinctions between different levels of violations.

Ms. Fulhorst noted that the Commission currently has a system in place that distinguishes between two levels of violations. She explained that the "streamlined" program is for less-significant violations, and is described on the Commission's website with a listing of the stipulations that fall under the program. She noted that additional distinctions could prove problematic in terms of settlement negotiations because each case has varying degrees of mitigating and aggravating factors. She suggested the Commission attempt to make clear, straightforward distinctions if it pursues this approach.

Commission Chair O'Neill commented that he foresees problems with an effort to fit cases into neat definitions because the Commission frequently takes intention and motive into consideration; as a result, the failure to file a disclosure report could be a "type 1" violation in one situation and a "type 2" violation in another.

With respect to the name change issue, Commission Chair O'Neill suggested that the Commission could forego any additional discussion or consideration unless one or more Commissioners wanted to recommend a specific name change.

Commissioner Kreit recognized that there was insufficient Commission support for a name change but reiterated his view that the name "Governmental Ethics and Political Practices Commission" would facilitate the distinction between honest mistakes and actual ethical lapses.

Item 10: Adjourn to Closed Session

Commission Chair John O'Neill adjourned the meeting to closed session at approximately 5:30 p.m. He stated the Commission would reconvene into open session following the conclusion of closed session in order to report any action taken during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Reconvene to Open Session

Commission Chair John O'Neill called the meeting back into open session at approximately 6:05 p.m.

Reporting Results of Closed Session Meeting of April 9, 2015:

Ms. Cameron reported the results of the closed session meeting of April 9, 2015:

Item-1: Conference with Legal Counsel (4 potential matters)

Case No. 2015-02 - In Re: Reporting Specific Decision: Lobbying Firm

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|-----------------|------------------------|
| Motion: | Initiate Investigation |
| Moved/Seconded: | Fuller/Detsky-Weil |
| Vote: | Carried Unanimously |
| Absent: | Cochran, Poat |

Case No. 2015-03 - In Re: Reporting Campaign Contributions: Lobbying Firm; Reporting Specific Decision: Lobbying Firm

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|-----------------|------------------------|
| Motion: | Initiate Investigation |
| Moved/Seconded: | Detsky-Weil/Fuller |
| Vote: | Carried Unanimously |
| Absent: | Cochran, Poat |

Case No. 2015-05 and 2015-06 - In Re: Reporting Campaign Contributions: Lobbying Firm & Organization Lobbyist

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|-----------------|------------------------|
| Motion: | Initiate Investigation |
| Moved/Seconded: | Zinser/O'Neill |
| Vote: | Carried Unanimously |
| Absent: | Cochran, Poat |

Item-2: Conference with Legal Counsel (4 potential matters)

Case No. 2013-23 - In Re: Filing of Campaign Statements

Motion: Approve Stipulations (2)
Moved/Seconded: Fuller/Kreit
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Cochran, Poat

Case No. 2014-05 - In Re: Filing of Campaign Statements

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Fuller/Detsky-Weil
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Cochran, Poat

Case No. 2014-43 - In Re: Contribution Limits: Individuals

Motion: Approve Stipulation
Moved/Seconded: Fuller/Detsky-Weil
Vote: Carried Unanimously
Absent: Cochran, Poat

Staff: General Counsel Chris Cameron

Case No. 2013-15 – In Re: Alleged Making of Contributions in the Name of Another

No Reportable Action

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

[Redacted]

John O’Neill, Commission Chair
Ethics Commission

[Redacted]

Jennifer Blasier, Administrative Aide
Ethics Commission

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST.