



**ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 6:10 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1033 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Henson called the Commission meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Henson, Austin Kaplan, Donna Beth McCormick, Velva Price, and James Sassin.

Commission members James Ruiz and Abu Hafiz were absent. Mr. Hafiz e-mailed the staff liaison prior to the meeting and stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting due to work out of town.

There were no speakers for agenda item 1 (Citizen Communication).

Regarding agenda item 2 (Approval of Minutes), Ms. Price made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kaplan, to approve the May 11, 2011, June 27, 2011, October 11, 2011, and October 24, 2011 meeting minutes and her amendment to the October 24, 2011 meeting minutes to delete the reference to "Price, Kaplan" as absent.. Motion passed on a vote of 5-0.

Regarding agenda item 3 A.(Discussion and possible action re: election of Vice Chair). Ms. McCormick motioned, seconded by Mr. Sassin to elect Ms. Price as Vice-Chair of the Ethics Review Commission. Motion passed on a vote of 4-0 with Ms. Price abstaining.

Next Chair Henson tabled item 3 B. (Discussion and possible action re: assessment of certain campaign finance and financial forms for purposes of making revisions) until a future meeting

Regarding item 3 C. (Update on previously tabled discussion of the City Code's conflict of interest language). The Ethics Review Commission briefly discussed this item. The item was resolved; no action was taken.

The Ethics Review Commission discussed item 3.D (Update on 2012 Charter Revision Committee recommendations re: Ethics Review Commission). The Commission voted to establish a working group to make recommendations to the Ethics Review Commission on a Charter Revision Committee recommendation: Clarify jurisdiction and enforcement powers of the City Ethics Review Commission to include alleged violations of campaign finance law. Subsequently, the Commission voted to appoint Ethics Review Commission members Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Ruiz, James Sassin, and Chair James Henson to the working group.

The Ethics Review Commission discussed item 3.E (Discussion and possible action re: 2012 candidate forum planning.) and the following candidate forum duties were assigned: Ms. McCormick will contact Austin Energy about the Power Plus article, Chair Henson will contact the League of Women Voters (LWV) about the candidate forum dates and send out candidate forum letters to the candidates (forum 1), Ms. Price will

make the City Hall Council Chamber reservations, by 2/1, for candidate forum 1, Chair Henson will handle duties for the Channel 6 taping of a five minute candidate's statement, Chair Henson will contact the LWV about the candidate questionnaire and the City Public Information Office (forum 2), and Mr. Sassin will handle the scheduling of the March Channel 6 candidate statement tapings.

The Ethics Review Commission discussed item 4 (Housekeeping Matters). Future agenda items will include

Motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Sassin to adjourn, motion passed 5-0, at 7:15 pm.