



ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 28, 2015**

The Ethics Review Commission (“Commission”) convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1029, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Austin Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Chair Austin Kaplan, Vice Chair Peter Einhorn, Donna Beth McCormick, Sylvia Hardman-Dingle, Jolene Kiolbassa, and James Sassin. Not present: Dennis Speight.

Staff in Attendance: Assistant City Attorney Cynthia Tom, Assistant City Attorney Sabine Romero, City Clerk Jannette Goodall, Office of the City Clerk Boards and Commissions Coordinator Deena Estrada.

Item No. 1: There were no speakers for general citizen communication.

Item No. 3.d.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.d. out of order. Ms. Estrada with the City Clerk’s Office briefed the Commission regarding upcoming ethics training for the new City boards and commissions members appointed by the new City Council.

Item No. 3.c.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.c. out of order. Assistant City Attorney Romero briefed the Commission on ethics training provided to the new 11-member City Council.

Item No. 3.e.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.e. out of order. Assistant City Attorney Romero briefed the Commission on the City’s 2015 Open Government Symposium.

Item No. 3.a.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.a. out of order. Chair Kaplan, Assistant Attorney Tom, and City Clerk Goodall briefed the Commission regarding a proposal by the Mayor’s office relating to electronic filing of City campaign finance reports for City Council elections and possible amendment of Chapter 2-2 of City Code (Campaign Finance). Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion that the Commission adopt a recommendation to Council regarding electronic campaign finance filing and a searchable online database, which was seconded by Commission Member Kiolbassa. The motion was approved on a 6-0 vote. Commission Member Speight absent.

Item No. 3.b.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 3.b. out of order, relating to reinstituting City campaign finance form Schedule ATX. 6. Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion to reinstate campaign finance form Schedule ATX. 6, which was seconded by Commission Member McCormick. The motion was approved on a 6-0 vote. Commission Member Speight absent.

Item No. 4.a.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 4.a. out of order, relating to a report from the Commission working group tasked with reviewing and proposing revisions to Chapter 2-2 of City Code (Campaign Finance) and Article III, Section 8 of the City Charter (Limits on Campaign Contributions and Expenditures). The working group had nothing to report.

Item No. 4.b.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 4.b. out of order, relating to a report from the Commission working group tasked with reviewing and proposing revisions to Chapter 2-7 of City Code (Ethics and Financial Disclosure). Assistant City Attorney Tom and City Clerk Goodall briefed the Commission on past history and updates regarding City staff filing of statements of financial information. Chair Kaplan provided a report on behalf of the working group.

Item No. 4.c.: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 4.c. out of order, relating to a report from the Commission working group tasked with reviewing and proposing revisions to Chapter 4-8 of City Code (Regulation of Lobbyists). Commission Member McCormick provided a report on behalf of the working group and handed out materials. Commission Member McCormick indicated the working group's intent to hold a public comment session. Commission Member Hardman-Dingle stated that she would like to resign from the working group since she would not be continuing on the Commission past June 30, 2015. Commission Member Hardman-Dingle made a motion that she be removed from the working group and be replaced with Chair Kaplan. Commission Member McCormick seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 6-0 vote. Commission Member Speight absent.

Item No. 5: Chair Kaplan took up Item No. 5 out of order, relating to future agenda items. The Commission discussed the following future agenda items: (1) revisiting ethics training for boards and commissions members, and (2) considering setting additional Commission meetings during election years.

Item No. 2: Vice Chair Einhorn made a motion: (1) to approve the Commission meeting minutes for the March 26, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the April 29, 2014 Regular Meeting; the July 29, 2014 Regular Meeting; the August 12, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the September 5, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the September 23, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the October 20, 2014 Special Called Meeting; and the October 28, 2014 Regular Meeting; and (2) to postpone approval of the minutes for the November 12, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the December 18, 2014 Special Called Meeting; the January 5, 2015 Special Called Meeting; and the January 27, 2015 Regular Meeting. Commission Member Sassin seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 5-0-1 vote. Commission Member Speight absent and Commission Member Kiolbassa abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.