



ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 29, 2013**

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1029, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: Chair Austin Kaplan, Vice Chair Velva Price (present at 6:21 p.m.), Peter Einhorn, Donna Beth McCormick, James Ruiz, James Sassin, and Dennis Speight.

Staff in Attendance: Assistant City Attorney Cynthia Tom, Commission Staff Liaison.

Item No. 1: there were no speakers for citizen communication.

Item No. 2: Commission Member Einhorn requested an amendment to the 7/30/13 draft minutes to show that he was not present. Motion by Commission Member Speight to approve 7/30/13 minutes with Commission Member Einhorn's amendment. Second by Commission Member Ruiz. Motion passed 5-0 with Commission Member Einhorn abstaining and Vice Chair Price not yet present. Commission Member Sassin requested an amendment to the 10/16/13 draft minutes to show that the Commission tentatively selected 10/29/13 as the final hearing date on the complaint by Alisa Walker against Susana Almanza. Motion by Commission Member Speight to approve the 10/16/13 draft minutes with Commission Member Sassin's amendment. Second by Commission Member Einhorn. Motion passed 6-0 with Vice Chair Price not yet present.

Item Nos. 3.a., 4.a., 4.b., and 4.c. were tabled by Chair Kaplan pending Vice Chair Price's arrival at the Commission meeting.

Item No. 4.d.: Chair Kaplan's working group presented proposed edits to the Commission's bylaws, which were discussed by the Commission and by Assistant City Attorney Tom. No action was taken on this item. Instead, Chair Kaplan requested that Assistant City Attorney Tom consult with the City Clerk's Office regarding proposed changes to text set out in the Clerk's standard bylaws template and that she report back to the Commission at the next regular Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Kaplan present at 6:21 p.m.

Chair Kaplan resumed consideration of Item No. 3.a. There was some discussion of proposed Commission hearing rules and existing procedures for the hearings on the complaint against Ms. Almanza. Vice Chair Price's working group requested that any action on the hearing rules be postponed until the next regular Commission meeting, after the final hearing on the complaint against Ms. Almanza. Vice Chair Price made a motion to request an executive session for a legal

briefing from the City Law Department at the final complaint hearing on the complaint against Ms. Almanza. Second by Commission Member Einhorn. Motion passed 7-0.

Chair Kaplan resumed consideration of Item No. 4.a., regarding officer elections. Commission Member Einhorn made a motion to reelect both Chair Kaplan and Vice Chair Price for another term for the same positions. Second by Commission Member McCormick. Motion passed 7-0.

Chair Kaplan resumed consideration of Item No. 4.b., Commission regular meeting schedule for 2014. Motion by Commission Member Speight to set regular meeting dates for 2014 as: January 28, April 29, July 29, and October 28. Second by Commission Member Sassin. Motion passed 7-0.

Chair Kaplan resumed consideration of Item No. 4.c., regarding scheduling the date for the final hearing on the complaint against Ms. Almanza. Motion by Commission Member Speight to set the final hearing for 12/4/13 at 6:30 p.m. Second by Commission Member McCormick. Motion passed 7-0.

Item No. 5.a.: Assistant City Attorney Tom provided a follow-up briefing to the prior staff briefing on Ethics Resource Center City of Austin 2010 Ethics Survey Report of Findings. The Commission requested an update from City staff on ethics training tracking statistics in July 2014.

Item No. 5.b.: Assistant City Attorney Tom provided an update on the City of Austin upcoming elections schedule, including candidate forum planning.

Item No. 6.: Future agenda items discussed to include: planning for 2014 candidate forums, annual review and evaluation of the dollar limits established in City Code Chapter 2-2 (Campaign Finance), review and revision of Commission bylaws, Commission hearing rules, and 2013 Commission Annual Internal Review Report.

Vice Chair Price moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Commission Member Sassin seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.