

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
July 17, 2015

Minutes of the Public Session

The Ethics Board met on July 17, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

Call to Order - Chairperson, Lu Pierson, called to order the meeting of the Baltimore City Ethics Board at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Guy Flynn, Dawna Cobb and Jennifer Burdick. Also present was Avery Aisenstark, Director of the Ethics Board and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Director of the Ethics Board.

A. Approval of Minutes from June-The Board approved the May minutes with minor changes by a vote of 4-0. June minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 4-0. Ms. Cobb did not vote as she was not at the June meeting.

B. Closed session The Board voted to go into closed session at 9:45 to meet with its counsel, Andrew Graham, regarding a pending Ethics Board investigation regarding a complaint against J.P.

C. Chair's Report: Elizabeth Hafey has been nominated to replace Alicia Wilson. She has not had a hearing.

D. Director's Status Updates

1. "Interest" Interpretation- Mr. Aisenstark reported that the State Ethics Commission will not change the law as it relates to the meaning of "interest." The Board voted 4-0 to amend the financial disclosure form to reflect that Board's current practice and interpretation that interest means "financial interest." This enables the Board to identify potential conflicts of interest.

E. Solicitation Requests

1. Environmental Control Board-ECB-Community Ambassadors Program- approved by vote of 4-0;
2. Outcome Stat- approved by a vote of 4-0 until the end of September 2015;
2. Baltimore Historic –approved by a vote of 4-0.

F. Discussion of reported endorsement-The Board discussed a reported endorsement issue and determined it did not raise an Ethics concerns.

G. Annual Report-The draft annual report was reviewed and corrected as necessary.

H. The next Board meeting will be August 21 at 9:30 a.m.

I. A motion to adjourn was made an approved at 11:10 a.m.