

Baltimore City Ethics Board
626 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
February 7, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The Ethics Board met on February 7, 2018 in the Conference Room of the Department of Legislative Reference, 626 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.

I. Call to Order: – Lu Pierson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a quorum present. Present were Board members Lu Pierson, Stephan Fogleman, Sabrina Johnson Turner, Teresa Epps Cummings, and Guy Flynn. Avery Aisenstark, Ethics Director (left the meeting early) and Thaddeus Watulak, Deputy Ethics Director, were also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The draft of the December 2017 meeting minutes has a discrepancy regarding the vote for the Cohen donation recommendation and whether the request was granted. Therefore, the request needed to be resubmitted and is before the committee today. Voted not to approve the draft December 2017 minutes 5-0. Further discussion regarding potential problems in notes/minutes. Corrections will be made.

III. Chair's Report: None.

IV. Director's Status Update Report:

A. Update on JD Potential Complaint

The board continued its discussion regarding this matter.

B. Question re: Part IV. Coworker Gifts

Does this apply to coworkers or superiors? See 6-26 (a)(2) and (a)(4)

Conversation started because of a request made by intermediary supervisor to employees to give money for a gift for department head.

Is this prestige of office? (Person who decides your raise.)

If falls under gifts, it is not allowed unless falls under exception. Distinguish between superiors and peers. Board can consider what other counties' procedures regarding the issue.

SF: Moved that Director do a cursory search of surrounding jurisdictions. Motion was properly seconded and passed with a vote of 6-0.

V. Solicitations:

A. President's Office: Ms. Glenda Curtis-board had several concerns regarding CHRIS. Inc. Ms. Curtis understands that she does not presently have the approval from the board of estimates. It is the board's understanding that this is a very closely held entity, however, not sure if Ms. Curtis is paid a salary. Application is not clear, and board has not been provided with any additional details. Board requested someone attend a board meeting to discuss. SF can go to president to explain.

LP-Moved to table until next meeting. The motion was properly seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

B. Councilmember Cohen's non-profit donation recommendation list has been clarified and resubmitted.

Board will want to see list of who requested and received the donation list and this requirement will be added to cover letter.

LP moved to approve the solicitation, it was properly seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

C. Councilmember Cohen's Renewal Application for Baltimore Corp.

2017 report contained a mathematical error and typo. It will be remedied.

LP moved to approve the current solicitation, the motion was properly seconded and passed with a vote of 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm

Next meeting will be held on March 7, 2018 at 3pm.