



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved ETHICS BOARD

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

5:00 PM

Virtual

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

In the absence of a Board Chair, Assistant City Attorney Amber McReynolds calls the meeting to order with a quorum present.

Staff present: Assistant City Attorney Amber McReynolds (Office of the City Attorney), City Attorney Michael Haas (Office of the City Attorney), Rebecca Braselton (Office of the City Attorney), Karen Kapusta-Pofahl (Office of the Common Council Office), Linda Horvath (City Planning)

Present - Travis R. Austin, Joseph B. Baring, Heather Daniels, Mary Eileen Harrington, Michael E. Verveer

Absent - Nadine C. Mobley

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve October 13, 2022 Ethics Board meeting minutes made by Heather Daniels. Motion seconded by Michael Verveer. Motion to approve minutes passed by voice vote. All present members vote to approve, no objections.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Introduction of Board Members and Staff

6. Election of Officers

Michael Verveer nominated Joseph Baring for Chair. Nomination seconded by Mary Eileen Harrington. Joseph Baring elected Ethics Board Chair by voice vote: all present members vote to approve, no objections.

New Chair Joseph Baring opens nominations for Vice Chair.
Michael Verveer nominated Mary Eileen Harrington for Vice Chair.
Nomination seconded by Travis Austin.
Mary Eileen Harrington elected Ethics Board Vice Chair by voice vote: all present members vote to approve, no objections.

7. Advisory Opinion re: Barbara Harrington-McKinney - Use of Alder Account to pay for a fiscal sponsorship fee

Discussion participants included Alder Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Common Council Office Chief of Staff Karen Kapusta-Pofahl, and City of Madison Urban Planner Linda Horvath.

Vice Chair Mary Eileen Harrington makes a Motion to 1. Take a straw vote on board's view on whether this particular expense is permitted under the City's Ethics Code, and 2. Ask ACA Amber McReynolds to write a draft opinion for board members to discuss at next meeting.

Heather Daniels has a point of order question on whether they can take a straw vote.

Vice Chair Harrington revises the motion: The Board directs ACA McReynolds to draft an advisory opinion that is consistent with the opinion of the City Attorney that this particular expenditure is not permitted under the Madison Code of Ethics. The letter would come back to the board as a draft for vote at next meeting. Motion seconded by Travis Austin. Motion approved by voice vote: all present members vote to approve, no objections.

8. Hearing re: Ethics Board Complaint filed by Emily Samson against Shadayra Kilfoy-Flores

Complainant Emily Samson, and subject of complaint Shadarya Kilfoy-Flores, were both present for comment and answered board members' questions.

Discussion was had by board members with emphasis on two points: is the subject of the complaint covered by Ethics Code, and do the facts of the allegation involve a conduct that is addressed by the Ethics Code.

Motion was made by Travis Austin that the Ethics Board finds that the board does have jurisdiction over the complaint and will schedule a hearing per the Code of Ethics for next steps. Motion seconded by Mary Eileen Harrington. Motion approved by voice vote: all present members vote to approve, no objections.

Discussion of meeting schedule

Discussion was had by board members and staff regarding particular meeting days and times, with the goal of creating a regular meeting schedule for the Ethics Board. Staff will coordinate the scheduling of future meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Travis Austin. Seconded by Heather Daniels.
Motion approved by voice vote: all present members vote to approve, no objections. Adjourned at 6:55pm