

CITY OF STAMFORD  
Board of Ethics  
Stamford Government Center  
October 23, 2019

***Minutes***

Present

Allan Lang, Chair  
Fred Springer, Alternate  
Myrna Sessa, member  
Monica Smyth, member  
Thomas Hynes, member  
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:03 p.m.

1. Chair Lang introduced new member, Kevin Quinn, and new administrative assistant, Kimberly Hawreluk.
2. Minutes of August 23, 2019 were accepted subject to several typographical errors; motion by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Hynes. Mr. Springer and Mr. Quinn abstained. Motion passed.
3. Election of a vice chair. Ms. Smyth nominated Mr. Hynes; second by Mr. Springer. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Advisory Opinion request by Emily Gordon. Ms. Gordon submitted written background materials and answered Board questions about her volunteer position as a member of the Mill River Park Collaborative (MRPC) Board and an employee, a planning analyst, for the Land Use Bureau of the City of Stamford.

Her supervisor, Ralph Blessing, recommended she request this Advisory Opinion. The MRPC is in part funded by the City so the Code of Ethics applies to her as both MRPC board member and employee. Ms. Gordon stated there would be no occasion for her to appear as a land use employee before the MRPC. It was possible she might be at a MRPC Board meeting when the Land Use Bureau presented. Ms. Gordon stated that while on the MRPC Board, she would abstain “from decisions that pertain directly to the Land Use Bureau” and that MRPC is open to her participation in this modified capacity.

Ms. Gordon is requesting an oral Advisory Opinion.

A motion was made by Mr. Springer: Based on the above facts, there is no violation of the Code of Ethics for Ms. Gordon to be employed as a planning analyst and hold a seat on the MBRPC Board. If any of these facts change, Ms. Gordon would have to recuse herself from participating and voting, or return to the Board for another Advisory Opinion based on the new facts. Mr. Hynes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Procedures for filing and posting Minutes and Advisory Opinions. Ms. Hawreluk provided a summary of her meeting with the Town and City Clerk, clarifying the way to properly file Minutes and Advisory Opinions. She was also able to ascertain which Advisory Opinions are clearly found in the Office of Town and County Clerk. Going forward Ms. Hawreluk will follow the procedure for filing Minutes and Advisory Opinions and will have the missing Advisory Opinions included in the electronic files at the Town and City Clerk Office.
6. Motion by Mr. Springer to amend agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss procedural issue. Second by Ms. Sessa; passed unanimously. At 7:45 p.m., Board went into Executive Session.
7. At 8:15 p.m., Ms. Smyth moved to leave Executive Session, second by Mr. Hynes. Motion passed unanimously.
8. At 8:19 adjournment moved by Ms. Smyth, second by Mr. Springer, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Smyth, secretary