

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center

March 20, 2024

Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: In-person & Zoom Meeting
Location: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th FL
Government Center
888 Washington, Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

This Meeting was recorded, and the audio recording is available from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such audio recording is intended to be the official public record of the Meeting and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present Members:

Christine Dzujna, Acting Chair (***Remote***)
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member (***In-Person***)
Laura Indellicati (***Remote***)
Kevin Quinn, Alternate (***In-person***)
Monica Smyth, Member (***Remote***)
Ira Stechel, Member (***In-Person***)

Other:

Kindrea Walston (***In-Person***)
Stephen Conover, Counsel (***Remote***)
Kimberly Hawreluk, Acting Secretary - Human Resources & Benefits Assistant (***In-Person***)
Various members of the public (***attended in-person & remote***)

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Christine Dzujna at 7:04 p.m.

1. Acting Chair Dzujna presented the January 17, 2024 Board of Ethics (“BOE”) Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Monica Smyth moved to approve the minutes, Benjamin Folkinshteyn seconded the motion. Laura Indellicati abstained as she was not in attendance at the last meeting, all other members in favor. The motion passed.
2. Acting Chair Dzujna introduced Kindrea Walston and asked that she share her request for an advisory opinion. Ms. Walston explained that she was seeking an advisory opinion on Code compliance issues, if any, that may arise with her role on the Housing Community Development Committee of the Board of Representatives and her community involvement within District 9. Specifically on matters concerning the development of the Westside and placement of Pacific House locations. In addition, Ms. Walston sought guidance regarding her community involvement with adjacent District 5 on the matter of the Marijuana Dispensary Building.

Ms. Walston stated she would like to determine if she would be able to speak and vote on these issues if these matters were presented on the Housing Community Development Committee of the Board of Representatives. Discussion ensued, questions were asked of Ms. Walston, and she was advised that the BOE would discuss her request and prepare an advisory opinion.

After a straw poll was taken, with guidance from Counsel, Stephen Conover, Acting Chair Dzujna moved to approve an Advisory Opinion that stated no code violation based on narrow facts that Kindrea Walston presented; after second by Kevin Quinn, motion passed unanimously. Benjamin Folkinshteyn and Laura Indellicati volunteered to prepare the advisory opinion.

3. Acting Chair Dzujna reviewed the Code of Ethics section 19-14 E (2) for guidance and invited input on the content of the Board's Annual Report. Discussion focused on proposing updated language, specifically for sections 19-4 and 19-5. Another key issue brought up this past year was the parameters a Board of Representatives member should follow when voting on the reappointment of a Board of Ethics member, especially if an individual has come before the Board of Ethics on an adjudicatory or advisory matter. The BOE members will review previous reports and the Code in order to discuss them at the next meeting.

Benjamin Folkinshteyn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Laura Indellicati seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hawreluk, Acting Secretary