

CITY OF STAMFORD

Board of Ethics  
Stamford Government Center  
February 27, 2019

***Minutes***

Present

Cheryl Bader, chair

Christine Dzujna, member

Allan Lang, member

Myrna Sessa, member

Monica Smyth, member

Michael Thomas, member

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bader at 7:09 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor.

1. Minutes of December 18, 2018 were accepted. Moved by Ms. Bader, second by Ms. Smyth.
2. Revised 2019 Board of Ethics Meeting Schedule was approved.
3. Request for Advisory opinion by Jonathan Winkel. Mr. Winkel appeared in person before the Board. He is requesting an Advisory Opinion as to whether there will be a conflict of interest if he continues as Chair of Stamford's Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Commissioner of the Urban Redevelopment commission (URC), while he also assumes a new, paid position as Executive Director of Stamford Innovation Week (SiW).

SiW requested that Mr. Winkel obtain a written Advisory Opinion on this potential conflict. During the meeting, the Board requested various pieces of background and information regarding function, history and future goals of SiW. Additionally, the Board requested information on the role of the EDC and URC which themselves primarily issue Advisory Opinions regarding economic initiatives in Stamford. Also, the Board collected information on Mr. Winkel's tenure with all entities. The discussion indicated that the intersection of the work of SiW with the EDC and URC is speculative now, but since it is a dynamic situation, Mr. Winkel should consult with the Board of Ethics within a time frame to be included in the upcoming Advisory Opinion.

After much discussion, the Board voted unanimously that there might be situations where Mr. Winkel would face a conflict of interest if he is Executive Director of SiW while also presiding as Chair of the EDC. Therefore, the Board unanimously recommended:

1. That Mr. Winkel err on the side of recusing himself from participating in an EDC discussion whenever SiW might be involved;

2. That Mr. Winkel discuss with the EDC whether he should step down from his role as Chair;
  3. That Mr. Winkel continually self-monitor himself regarding whether he is allowing his role with SiW to influence his decision making with the EDC;
  4. That Mr. Winkel never appear before his own commission.
4. Request for Advisory Opinion by Susan Nabel. Ms. Nabel also appeared in person before the Board. Ms. Nabel is the Clerk of the Board of Representatives and her request is whether the bar to participate in decisions of the Board of Representatives due to a conflict of interest extends to discussions during the Caucus phase of their meetings.

The Board did not rule on the merits of Ms. Nabel's request because as Clerk she is not authorized under the Code of Ethics to request an Advisory Opinion. The President of the Board of Representatives is authorized under Section 19-14(C)-a and should seek this opinion.

5. The Board unanimously approved a 60-day extension request by Allan Lang (on behalf of the Investigating Panel) to respond to a Complaint that had been filed in December 2018.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Smyth, Secretary