

City of Stamford Board of Ethics
Public Meeting
Stamford Government Center
May 19, 2014
DRAFT Minutes

Present:

Cheryl Bader, chair
Clarence Grebey III, secretary
Allan Lang, member
John Martelli, member
Daniel Sanchez, member
Adam Vandervoort, member

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bader at 6:45 p.m.

1. Advisory Opinion for Anne T. Fountain, MPH

The panel continued discussion of a request made by Ms. Fountain, the director of health & social services for the City of Stamford seeking an advisory opinion regarding her potential attendance at events and programs sponsored by partner organizations in the community. A revised draft letter of limited response was presented noting that the City Code authorizes the Board to review and opine on specific conduct, but it does not authorize the panel to categorically exempt types of conduct.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the opinion. Discussion followed and an amendment was proposed. The motion to approve the opinion as amended carried, unanimously.

2. Advisory Opinion for the Hon. Joe Cappola

A request from the Honorable Joe Cappola, a member of the Board of Representatives was presented. Representative Cappola is seeking an Advisory Opinion specific to Section 19-5 of the City's Code of Ethics regarding potential conflicts of interest that may arise as chairman of the Operations Committee and his spouse's part-time employment with the Zoning Board of Appeals Division.

Discussion focused on the "material benefit" definition of Section 19-5. The Board concluded that under the definition presented in the Code, Representative Cappola's voting on matters broadly concerning the City's department of operations would confer no material benefits to him or his spouse, and, therefore, no conflict of interest exists. Should, however, there be a vote on

matters pertaining specifically to his wife's employment status or compensation, he should recuse himself.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, to draft an advisory letter to Representative Cappola for Board to review and approval at its next meeting.

3. Approval of minutes of 28 April 2014

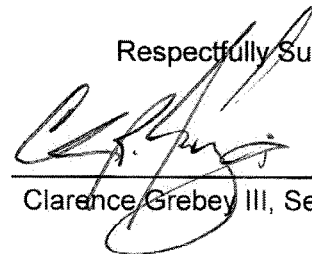
A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes after the correction of a minor grammatical error.

4. New Business

- The Board began deliberation on a draft a document regarding general guidance on Section 19-4(3) of the City's Code of Ethics. Board members agreed to provide additional input on the draft memorandum and to resume consideration at the next meeting. A suggestion was made to invite Board of Representatives President Randy Skigen, or his designee, to the next meeting.
- Chairman Bader briefed the panel on the preparation of the Board's Annual Report, which will be filed with the City Clerk and the Board of Representatives in June.
- The Board agreed to schedule regular meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. If there is no pending business to be considered, no meeting will take place. If the meeting date falls on a holiday, it will be rescheduled.

The motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Clarence Grebey III, Secretary