

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting
December 2, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on December 2, 2015 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bruce Carter called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Commissioners Charlene Angeles, Rich Cohan, Brendan Donckers and Eileen Norton were in attendance. Vice-Chair Brad Axel was present via telephone. Commissioner Bill Sherman was not in attendance. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Kate Flack, Polly Grow and Steve Townsend were present. Assistant City Attorneys Jeff Slayton and Gary Smith were also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

Queen Pearl addressed the Commission.

Action Item

2) Assessing candidates for Commission opening (Executive session possible)

The Commission interviewed two candidates for the opening on the Commission and then convened in an Executive Session to discuss their qualifications.

The Commission returned from Executive Session, and Commissioner Cohan moved to appoint Vickie Rawlins to the Commission-appointed position on the Commission.

Commissioner Norton seconded. The vote to appoint Ms. Rawlins was unanimous.

3) October 7, 2015 Regular meeting minutes

Commissioner Donckers proposed a minor change to the wording of the October 7, 2015 Regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Cohan moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Donckers seconded. The October 7, 2015 Regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

4) November 4, 2015 Regular meeting minutes

Commissioner Donckers moved to approve the Regular minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Norton seconded the motion. The November 4, 2015 Regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5) Settlement with elected official over use of City facilities for campaign purposes (\$150.00)

Council President Tim Burgess and the Director entered into a settlement agreement relating to tweets and re-tweets on the social media site Twitter. The activity promoted the Councilmember's reelection effort and the preschool initiative that was on the ballot in 2014. The Director recommended that the Commission accept the settlement, under which the Councilmember agreed to pay a \$150 penalty.

Commissioner Cohan recommended that the Commission staff train councilmembers on the appropriate use of social media.

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the settlement, and Commissioner Donckers seconded. The settlement was unanimously approved.

6) Election of officers for 2016

The Chair nominated Commissioner Eileen Norton to succeed him, and nominated Commissioner Donckers to serve as Vice-chair. Commissioner Cohan seconded the motion. The nominations were unanimously approved.

7) Merit leave determination for Executive Director

Commissioner Cohan made a motion to grant the Director six days of merit leave, and Commissioner Norton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Angeles abstained from the vote, citing the brief time in which she had served on the Commission.

Discussion Items

8) Draft legislation amending the Ethics Code

The Commission discussed the draft legislation, and there was a consensus that the draft required some additional work to clarify the matters in which disclosure of a conflict of interest would be sufficient.

9) Late-filing penalty for United for Tim (\$200.00)

This fine was levied against the United for Tim campaign for not reporting an independent expenditure in a timely manner. The penalty was paid in full prior to the December 7, 2015 Regular Commission meeting.

10) Late-filing penalty for People for Jon Grant (\$50.00)

This fine was levied against the People for Jon Grant campaign and was paid in full prior to the December 7, 2015 Regular Commission meeting.

11) Later-filing penalty for Debra for District 5 (\$50.00)

This fine was levied against the Debra for District 5 campaign and was paid in full prior to the December 7, 2015 Regular Commission meeting.

12) Executive Director's report

The Executive Director gave an update on the status of the efforts to find replacements for Commissioners Axel and Sherman. He also shared with the Commission that Gary Keese would be retiring in the first quarter of 2016.

The Chair asked about the implementation of I-122 and the Director replied that he was working to get a project manager hired.

The Regular Commission meeting for December 7, 2015 adjourned at 5:14 p.m.