

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

November 7, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on November 7, 2012 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bill Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Tarik Burney and Commissioners Bruce Carter, Rich Cohan, Lorena González, David Mendoza and Kendee Yamaguchi were present. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Kate Flack and Gary Keese and Chris Thomas were also present, as was Assistant City Attorney Gary Smith.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) Approval of minutes of October 3, 2012 regular meeting

The chair pointed out a missing period on page four of the minutes. Commissioner Cohan motioned to approve the October 3, 2012 minutes as amended, and Commissioner Carter seconded. The amended minutes from the October 3, 2012 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

3) Settlement with former City employee who participated in matters in which a reasonable person would question her independence of judgment (\$500)

The Executive Director told the Commission that a former SPU employee had acknowledged working on the account of a close friend without properly disclosing the relationship. The Executive Director recommended that the Commission approve the settlement, under which the employee agreed to pay \$500.

Commissioner Carter asked if the employee was terminated for these infractions. The Executive Director told the Commission that the employee had resigned voluntarily.

Commissioner Cohan motioned to approve the settlement, and Vice-Chair Burney seconded. The Commission vote to approve the settlement was unanimous.

***) Request for Hearing – Case No. 11-1-0929; In the matter of Ron Allen**

The Executive Director explained that the only question before the Commission at this meeting was what date to set for a hearing. Mr. Allen's counsel was not able to attend, but she had informed the Executive Director that she had a conflict on December 5, which had been proposed by the Executive Director. She also indicated to the Executive Director that she would be willing to waive the Commission rule requiring that a hearing occur within 60 days of the date that charges are filed.

The Commissioners briefly discussed their availability in the month of January, and the Chair suggested that the Commission not schedule a hearing until all of the parties had their calendars at hand. Commissioner González made a motion to set a hearing at a date to be determined and to issue a briefing schedule. Commissioner Cohan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

4) Discussion of proposed changes to Whistleblower Protection Code

This discussion was postponed until the December meeting.

5) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director told the Commission that the bill to redefine the potential uses of surplus campaign funds and to shorten the fundraising period had passed the City Council 7-2.

The Chair asked the Executive Director whether the staff was receiving the full cooperation of the Executive and the Seattle Police Department in the investigation that the Mayor's office had asked Commission staff to handle at the previous meeting. The Executive Director told the Commission that everything staff had requested had been provided to date.

In response to public comment offered at the Commission's October meeting, the Commission asked the Executive Director to get in touch with the Seattle Channel to explore producing a Video Voters' Guide in even-numbered years.

The Regular Commission meeting for November 7, 2012 adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

DRAFT