

ETHICS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION

The Ethics Board ("Board") met on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 2:31PM in person and by conference call via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order & Statement Concerning the Recording of the Public Session: Chair Stephan Fogleman called the Board meeting to order at 2:31PM with all Board members present.

Chair Fogleman read the following statement:

All participants in the Public Session of the Board meeting acknowledge and consent to the video and audio recording of the Public Session and the publication of the recording on the Board's website and social media accounts.

Statement Concerning the Administrative Session of the December 11, 2024, Board Meeting: Chair Fogleman read the following statement:

Per the Open Meetings Act, the Board discloses that it adjourned its virtual open meeting on November 13, 2024, to enter the Administrative Session at approximately 3:05PM. Three Board members were present. Member Newman was absent. Members discussed administrative matters including complaints.

The Board may need to close some or all of this meeting to preserve the confidentiality mandated by the Ethics Code or as otherwise authorized by the State Open Meetings Act. Likewise, upon adjournment of the Open Session, the Board may reconvene for an Administrative Session to discuss non-public, administrative functions of the Board.

Review of Schedules and Agenda: Chair Fogleman and Nolle Newman both mention that they will have to leave the meeting by 4:00PM.

Charitable/Governmental Gift solicitation Waiver Application -- "Tree Baltimore"; Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Forestry Division: Dir. Amberger informed the Board of a last-minute waiver application by the Forestry Division: In the aftermath of a recent fire at Camp Small, that office received offers of Donations to support reconstruction. In addition to accepting these unsolicited gifts as an agency, the Forestry Div. applied for permission to expand broader fundraising efforts via a solicitation waiver.

Board Member McCauley requested that the petition be amended to reflect that no favorable treatment will be given to donors *and* that no detriment will accrue to those prospects who decide not to give. The Board voted unanimously (4:0) to approve the "Tree Baltimore" Waiver conditioned on the above condition.

Staff Update: Dir. Amberger has commenced in-person training the new councilmembers and their staff.

Special Assistant Moore provided the following metrics for November on the Staff's recent work:

- Help Desk

- o 22 help desk requests were received and resolved by Board staff in November.
 - 0 help desk requests were from lobbyists.
 - 1 help desk requests were concerning gift solicitation waivers.
 - 1 help desk requests were concerning financial disclosure statements.
 - 0 help desk requests were ethics inquiries.
 - 13 help desk requests were concerning the Ethics Training.
 - 6 help desk requests were administrative (question about deadlines, forms, etc).
 - 0 help desk requests were not within the Board's jurisdiction and were referred elsewhere.
- o FY25 requests: 232

- Ethics Training
 - o 35 people completed the Ethics Training in November
 - o FY25 attendees: 198

- Complaints
 - o FY25 Complaints: 8
 - Open: 2
 - Dismissed: 6

- Secondary Employment Waivers
 - o Waiver Requests:0
 - o FY25 Granted Waivers: 0

- Gift Solicitation Waivers
 - o 3 gift solicitation waiver applications were submitted to the Board for the November 13th Board meeting.
 - o 1 gift solicitation waivers expired since the last Board meeting.
 - o FY25 Active Waivers: 25
 - o FY25 Expired/Rescinded Waivers: 0

- Lobbying
 - o 163 Registered Lobbyist

The Public Session adjourned at 2:50PM.