Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct
Minutes of Meeting

Monday March 3, 2025

The Board of Ethical Conduct held a meeting on this date in Metropolitan Council Committee Room 1 of the Second Floor of the Historic Courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee.

Persons in Attendance:

Diane DiIanni, Board Chair
Brigid Carpenter, Board Member
Joseph Guttierez, Board Member
Chris Sabis, Board Member
Kinika Young, Board Member

Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel
Austin Kyle, Metropolitan Clerk
Shawn Reed, Deputy Metropolitan Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2024

The Clerk indicated that there were revisions needed in the July 8, 2024 minutes and recommended that the Board defer approval of these minutes until the next meeting. Without objection, Chair DiIanni deferred the approval of the minutes until the next scheduled meeting of the Board.

Announcement of Appeal Rights

The Clerk announced that parties who disagree with a final decision of the Board may appeal by filing a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery Court within sixty (60) days of entry of the Order, and parties are encouraged to seek independent legal advice to ensure that applicable procedures and deadlines are properly followed.

Department of Law – Legal Training Manual

Chair DiIanni briefly discussed relevant sections of the Legal Training Manual that had previously been sent to Board members and received some clarification from Legal Counsel Eke.

Council Legislative Updates

The Clerk provided a summary of Metropolitan Council Bill BL2024-477, which was enacted in September of 2024, providing updates and expanded actions available for the Board to consider in response to a finding of a violation of the Standards of Conduct, found in Section 2.222 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws.

The Clerk provided a summary of Metropolitan Council Bill BL2024-290, which was enacted in May of 2024, which expanded many of the requirements for lobbyist for both registration and annual lobbyist reporting.

Annual Lobbying and Expense Reporting – Metropolitan Clerk's Report for 2024

The Clerk presented the details of the annual lobbyist reports that were received and listed the lobbyists that failed to file their annual reports.

After discussion, Ms. Young moved to request a report from the Clerk regarding clients who had repeated failures by their lobbyists to comply with the reporting requirements and to convene a meeting of the Board to review the report and potentially make recommendations for changes to the lobbyist reporting requirements, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: "Ayes" (5): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Sabis, and Young; "Noes" (0); "Abstain" (0).

Annual Election of Board Officers

Chair DiIanni opened the floor for nominations for the Board Chair and Vice Chair positions. Ms. Carpenter moved to nominate Ms. Diane DiIanni as Board Chair and Ms. Kinika Young as Vice Chair, which motion was properly seconded. There being no further nominations, the following vote was taken on the motion to elect Ms DiIanni as Board Chair and Ms. Kinika Young as Vice Chair: "Ayes" (5): DiIanni, Carpenter, Gutierrez, Sabis, and Young; "Noes" (0); "Abstain" (0).

Next Steps/Scheduling

The Board will be meeting again to review the requested report from the Clerk regarding clients of lobbyists with repeated reporting violations. The date for this meeting has not been set, as the Clerk will need time to complete the report and poll the Board Members for their meeting availability.

Adjournment

Upon motion properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.