

DeKalb County Board of Ethics

Location: Conference Room A, Clark Harrison Building

Date of Meeting: 2/5/2014 Time of Meeting: 6:00pm

Minutes

Members Present:

Isaac Blythers, Acting Chair

Susan Neugent

John Ernst

Clara DeLay

Bobbie Sanford

Edwinett Murphy

Observers:

Trumondia Williams, Staff Support, Law Department

Gene Chapman, Counsel for the Board of Ethics

April Hunt, AJC

Rhea Johnson, Citizen

James Elliot, Emory University

Member(s) Absent:

Thelma Grier

I) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Isaac Blythers, Acting Chair.

II) Welcome and Introductions

III) Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed and revised to add discussion regarding complaint brought before the Board by Rhea Johnson. Isaac Blythers entertained the motion to approve the agenda with revisions. Bobbie Sanford moved for approval and the motion was seconded by Susan Neugent. Isaac Blythers called for a vote. All voted and all were in favor to approve adopting the agenda with revisions.

IV) Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes, dated December 23, 2013 were reviewed and approved. Isaac Blythers entertained a motion to approve the minutes. John Ernst moved for approval and the motion was seconded by Susan Neugent. Isaac Blythers called for a vote. All voted and all were in favor to approve adopting the minutes.

V) Approve Ethics Board Training Agenda

The Board discussed the topics of training. James Elliot from Emory University put together a list of topics he will go over with the Board during a one day training session. A member of the Board

suggested that staff support would investigate the possibility and logistics to record the training session.

VI) Propose Training Dates

The Board collaborated on dates that would work for them collectively for training. Staff Support advised them that weekends were not an option; however, a location would be secured for them to meet should they decide to have Saturday training. The dates that were agreed upon were Saturday February, 22, Tuesday February 25, Friday March 7, and Saturday March 8, 2014. Thelma Grier was not present at the meeting, so Staff Support has agreed to send her the meeting dates for her to select the best date that works with her schedule. Once a date is selected, a location will be decided upon and a request put in to DCTV to possibly record the training session.

VII) Discuss and Approve Rules of Procedure of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics

Acting Chair, Isaac Blythers reviewed the Rules and Procedure document for the Board of Ethics. The document has revisions to the meetings section, quorum section, advisory opinions section, written complaints section, complaints by the Board section, investigations section, hearings section, and disclosures section. All of these revisions were reviewed by Board Counsel Gene Chapman. The Board did not take any action regarding revisions to the Rules. There was also discussion among the Board to make revisions to the formal complaint form that is located on the County's website. The Board would like to get some resolve from the County Clerk as to how complaints are received and delivered to the Board. Discussion regarding when to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the Board of Ethics was tabled until the Board is back to a fully functioning position and will not be voted upon while still acting in a suspended capacity.

VIII) Discuss the Complaint from Rhea Johnson

The Board had a brief discussion on the complaint that Mr. Rhea Johnson filed with the Clerk's Office. The complaint was in reference to Interim CEO Lee May appointing Morris Williams to serve as Deputy COO for the Administration, while still serving as Chief of Staff for the BOC. The other complaint by Mr. Johnson was in reference to Interim CEO Lee May acting in the capacity of both the CEO of DeKalb County and 5th District Commissioner. Gene Chapman, Counsel for the Board of Ethics suggested that the DeKalb County Ethics Board did not have jurisdiction over these particular matters. Isaac Blythers entertained a motion made by Susan Neugent and seconded by Clara DeLay declining to consider Mr. Johnson's complaints on the grounds the Board does not have jurisdiction over the matters. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn. John Ernst made a motion to the Rules of Procedure that the complaint failed to state a violation pursuant under the DeKalb Code of Ethics. The motion was seconded by Clara DeLay. Acting Chair, Isaac Blythers called for a vote. All voted and 5 approved the motion. The sixth member had left at 7:30 and was not available at the time to vote. After more discussion, John Ernst made a motion to rescind the vote and table the complaints until after the Board have moved from suspended capacity. Bobbie Sanford seconded the motion. Isaac Blythers called for a vote and all approved.

IX) Adjournment

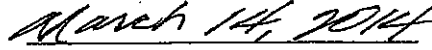
There being no further business, the Acting Chair entertained the motion to adjourn. Susan Neugent moved for approval and it was seconded by Clara DeLay. The Acting Chair called for a

vote. 5 members voted and the vote was unanimous; however, one member left at 7:30pm and was not present to vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Acting Chair



Date