

MINUTES
DeKalb County Board of Ethics
August 24, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aubrey Villines, *Chair*
Stanley Baum
Pat Killingsworth
Veronica Higgs Cope
Stephen W. Irving, *Counsel for the Board*

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aubrey Villines, Chair of the Board of Ethics, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable for approval at the time of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Broussard/Legacy Investment Group, LLC, Matter

Stanley Baum suggested that the Board needs an approved written advisory opinion indicating that DeKalb County Planning Commissioner Donald Broussard should recuse himself from the Legacy matter should it come back before the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners or the DeKalb County Planning Commission. He indicated that the opinion should be drafted by Stephen Irving, the Board's counsel. Baum further stated that the Board of Ethics would need to approve the opinion and present it to Broussard and Legacy Investment Group, LLC.

New Board Member

Pat Killingsworth addressed the issue of the need for a new member of the Board of Ethics. She indicated that she had forwarded information about a perspective member to CEO Vernon Jones and received no response. Board member Veronica Higgs Cope's appointment has expired, and Board member Bryan Smith's appointment will expire in December 2006.

DeKalb County Board of Ethics' Website

Pat Killingsworth reiterated that her numerous attempts to obtain assistance with the Board's of Ethics' website have been unsuccessful. Aubrey Villines indicated that he would schedule a meeting with CEO Jones to address *inter alia* the issue of the need for a new Board member and the need for assistance with the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Aubrey Villines discussed the fact that Board of Ethics members need to review the Board's laws for any deficiencies so that he may address the legislature with any necessary changes and/or amendments during the next regular legislative session.

Stephen Irving indicated that the confusion in the Broussard matter stemmed partially from the language of § 22A(c) of the Code which is not sufficiently explicit as to what constitutes a violation of the Ethics Code. Irving suggested that the Board of Ethics issue an opinion about what members of the various county commissions can and can not do and/or discuss with the public.


Aubrey Villines indicated that the Board of Ethics should disseminate information to individuals who are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to advise them of such jurisdiction. Villines stated that he would schedule a work session with CEO Jones' Chief of Staff.

The Board discussed that the next regularly scheduled meeting is November 8, 2006. Aubrey Villines requested that Board members review the Ethics Code for possible amendments to be addressed at the next meeting.

The Board addressed the fact that the doors of the Maloof Building are now locked at 7:00 p.m. and that several members found it difficult to access the building. The Board discussed the possibility of changing the meeting time for all future meetings to 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The Board noted that under the sunshine laws, the Board would need to inform the public via website or other means that the meeting time has changed. The suggestion was made that Board members should have swipe cards for access to the building.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Veronica Higgs Cope, Member
DeKalb County Board of Ethics