
Minutes of the Meeting on December 19, 2017

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order.

Commission Vice President Serena Oberstein called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Present: Vice President Serena Oberstein
Commissioner Araceli Campos
Commissioner Melinda Murray
Commissioner Andrea Sheridan Ordin

Absent: President Jessica Levinson

2. Approval of minutes for the meeting on October 17, 2017.

Ordin moved to approve the minutes, and Campos seconded. The minutes were approved 4-0.

3. Possible discussion with authorized neighborhood council representatives.

No neighborhood council resolutions or community impact statements were submitted or discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2017-15, *In the Matter of Joseph Kouba* (alleged excess contributions).

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties of \$15,000.

No public comment was received.

Action: Oberstein moved to approve the order, and Murray seconded. The order was approved 4-0.

5. Proposed stipulation in Case No. 2017-13, *In the Matter of Ingrid I. S. Lee (aka In Soo Lee)* (alleged excess contributions).

Staff recommended approving a stipulated order imposing administrative penalties of \$16,455.

No public comment was received.

Action: Ordin moved to approve the order, and Murray seconded. The order was approved 4-0.

6. Notice of inactive investigations.

Staff recommended approving language for the enforcement practices report that authorizes staff to provide verbal notice to a respondent of an inactive investigation.

Action: Ordin moved to approve the language, and Oberstein seconded. The language was approved 4-0.

7. Review of recusals by Mel Levin, the president of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners.

Staff provided an analysis of the financial interests that led to a Charter § 707 recusal review for President Levine. Staff recommended finding that the conflict is not significant at this time.

No public comment was received.

Action: Ordin moved to adopt a resolution finding that a significant conflict does not exist at this time, and Oberstein seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

8. Proposed modifications to the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance.

This item was considered out of order, after Item 9. Campos recused herself and left the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Staff presented the two remaining decision points, regarding the disclosure of direct communications and the exemption of 501(c)(3) organizations.

Public comment was received from Kent Minault, Nona Randois, Christopher Homandberg, Shayam Subramanian, Greg Spiegel, Michele Prichard, Aquilina Versoza, Nicole Wong, Daryl Gale, Dagan Bayliss, Eric Romann, and Adrian Riskin.

The commission took a break from 11:04 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.

Action: Oberstein moved to require the disclosure of direct communications, including the date, the agency contacted, and the division and title of any City official contacted. Murray seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

Oberstein moved to modify the exemption for 501(c)(3) organizations to include organizations that either provide direct services to disadvantaged people at significantly below-market rates or had gross receipts of less than \$2 million. Murray seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

9. Regular meeting schedule for 2018.

This item was considered out of order, before Item 9. Staff recommended a regular meeting schedule for 2018.

Action: Oberstein moved to approve the recommended meeting schedule, and Ordin seconded. The meeting schedule was approved 4-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Review of recusals by Pilar Diaz, a member of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

11. Lobbying report (3rd Quarter 2017).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

12. Recusal report (3rd Quarter 2017).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

13. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

14. Policy and legislation report.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

15. Executive director's report.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

CLOSING ITEMS

16. General public comment.

No general public comment was received.

17. Announcements and requests to schedule items on future agendas.

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

18. Adjournment.

Oberstein moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ordin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. by a vote of 3-0.

A complete recording of this meeting, excluding closed sessions, is on file as a public record and may be accessed at ethics.lacity.org.