
Minutes of the Meeting on February 20, 2018

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order.

Commission Vice President Serena Oberstein called the meeting to order at 9:41 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 December 19, 2017.

Public comment was received from Eric Preven.

Ordin moved to approve the minutes, and Murray 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. Review of recusals by Jill Banks Barad, a member 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 Commissioner Barad. Staff recommended finding that the conflict is not significant at this time.

No public comment was received.

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

5. Review of recusals by Michael Newhouse, the vice 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 Vice President Newhouse. 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 Campos seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

6. Amended professional services agreement with Kennedy Court Reporters.

Staff recommended adopting a resolution to approve and authorize the executive director to execute the First Amended and Restated Professional Services Agreement with Kennedy Court Reporters, to maintain the Ethics Commission's ability to obtain court reporting services.

Public comment was received from Eric Preven.

Action: Murray moved to adopt a resolution approving authorizing the executive director to execute the professional services agreement, and Oberstein seconded. The resolution was adopted 4-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Overview of select campaign finance laws, including those affected by the new election schedule and the matching funds program.

Staff presented an overview of existing campaign finance laws, in anticipation of policy recommendations to be discussed at the next meeting.

Public comment was received from Councilmember David Ryu, Bill Watkins, Eric Preven, and Sylvia Moore.

8. Lobbying report (4th Quarter 2017).

The staff report was received and filed.

Public comment was received from Eric Preven.

9. Recusal report (4th Quarter 2017).

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

10. Pre-confirmation statements of economic interests.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

11. Policy and legislation report.

The staff report was received and filed.

No public comment was received.

12. Executive director's report.

The new Ethics Commission web site was highlighted.

Public comment was received from Eric Preven.

CLOSING ITEMS

13. General public comment.

General public comment was received from Genevieve Clavreul, Bill Watkins, Morris Griffin, and in writing from the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council.

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

No announcements or requests for future items were made.

15. Adjournment.

Ordin moved to adjourn the meeting, and Campos seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. by a vote of 4-0.

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