

Philadelphia Board of Ethics
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2006
National Constitution Center
Kirby Auditorium
9:00 am

Present:

Board

Pauline Abernathy
Richard Glazer, Esq.
Richard Negrin, Esq.
Stella M. Tsai, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller

Guests

Judge Ida K. Chen
Mayor John F. Street
J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Esq.

Agenda:

I. Swearing-In

Shane Creamer called the meeting to order and introduced Judge Chen and invited the five board members to the stage. Judge Chen made brief remarks and then administered the following oath:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and that I will discharge the duties of member of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics with fidelity.

II. Public Meeting

a. Elections

Richard Glazer moves to nominate Pauline Abernathy as temporary secretary. Rich Negrin seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. Ms. Abernathy notes that a quorum is present, calls the meeting to order at 9:15, and asks for nominations for board chair. Stella Tsai nominates Mr. Glazer and Rev. Alyn Waller seconds it. No other nominations are made and **the board voted unanimously to elect Richard Glazer Chair.**

Ms. Abernathy congratulates Mr. Glazer who makes brief remarks from the podium, thanking the Mayor, City Council and past ethics board members for their work and faith in the new board members. Mr. Glazer chairs the remainder of the meeting and asks Ms. Abernathy to take the minutes.

The chair calls for nominations for Vice Chair. Rev. Waller nominates Mr. Negrin and Ms. Abernathy seconds the motion. No other nominations are made and **the board voted unanimously to elect Rich Negrin Vice Chair.** Mr. Negrin makes brief remarks from the podium.

b. New Business

Mr. Negrin indicates that he has spoken with Charisse Lillie, chair of the previous ethics board, about its executive director, Shane Creamer, acting as the new board's Interim Executive Director and makes a motion to approve Shane Creamer as Interim Executive Director.

The chair recognizes that Mayor John Street has arrived and invites the Mayor to make remarks from the podium. The Mayor makes brief remarks, thanking the members of the previous ethics board and asking those in attendance to stand (Dan McElhatton and Romulo Diaz) and thanking the new board members for taking on this important and not-easy responsibility. He spoke of the need for the board members to do what is right, use sound judgment, and call things based on the facts without regard to what might be popular.

The chair notes that Congressman Chaka Fattah is also in attendance and ask Mr. Negrin to restate his motion. Mr. Negrin does, Ms. Tsai seconds it, and

the motion to approve Shane Creamer as Interim Executive Director passes unanimously.

The chair asks for a discussion of the board's priorities. Ms. Abernathy responded that campaign finance issues must and should be a priority given the January filing deadlines and that 2007 is an election year.

Ms. Tsai makes a motion for the board to meet next on December 4, at 4 pm at the Philadelphia Bar Association and to invite Records Commissioner Decker to brief the board on the campaign finance database and for the City Solicitor to send a representative to brief the board on the campaign finance laws. Rev. Waller seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

The chair suggests creating a committee to work with Mr. Creamer on logistical issues, such as securing office space, letterhead and administrative support. Mr. Negrin makes the motion, Ms. Abernathy and Rev. Waller both second it, and it passes unanimously.

The chair asks for other business. Seeing none the chair asks whether members of the public have any questions or comments.

Dan McElhatton is recognized by the chair and congratulates the new board and thanks the board members for being willing to serve.

Ms. Abernathy responds by thanking the members of the prior ethics board for making the new board's job easier and states the new board's interest in getting input from people both within and outside city government on its priorities and direction, and invites public input. At the chair's request, Ms. Abernathy makes a motion to formally request that Mr. Creamer develop an outreach plan for the board to get public input. The vice chair seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Ms. Tsai moves to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Abernathy seconds the motion. The meeting is adjourned at 9:39 am.