

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ETHICS BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Call to order

- a. Board Chairman, David Carr called to order the regular meeting of the Ethics Board at 3:00 PM on **Tuesday, February 15, 2011** in Room 203-R of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

1. Roll call

- a. The Ethics Board Executive Director, Veronica W. Robinson, conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: David Carr, Board Chairman; Rebecca Blemberg, Board Member; Christian Flores, Board Member; and Henry Hamilton III, Board Member.
- b. The following persons were temporarily excused: Paul Hinkfuss, Vice Chairman; and Marcia Facey, Board Member.
- c. Vice Chairman Paul Hinkfuss arrived at 3:10 PM and took his place on the Board.
- d. Board Member Marcia Facey arrived at 3:20 PM and took her place on the Board.

2. Approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting

- a. The Board Chairman and present Members read the minutes from the last meeting. Ms. Blemberg moved, Mr. Hamilton III seconded, and the Board by vote of 4-0, approved the minutes of the December 9, 2010 meeting.

3. 2011 Budget

- a. The Board Chairman and present Members read the 2011 Budget summary. This report was informational only. It will be placed on file.

4. Election of Officers

- a. This item was held over until Mr. Hinkfuss and Ms. Facey arrived.
- b. Board Member Rebecca Blemberg nominated David Carr to serve as Board Chairman. There were no other nominations. Ms. Blemberg moved, Mr. Hamilton III seconded, and the Board by vote of 6-0 nominated David Carr as the Board Chairman.

- c. Board Member Henry Hamilton III nominated Paul Hinkfuss to serve as Board Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Mr. Hamilton III moved, Ms. Blemberg seconded, and the Board by vote of 6-0 nominated Paul Hinkfuss as the Board Vice Chairman.

5. Report of the Chairman

5.1 Confidential Advisories, if any

5.2 Confidential Verified Complaints & Investigation Requests, if any

- a. Mr. Flores moved, Mr. Hamilton III seconded, and the Board by roll call vote of 4-0 went into closed session to discuss both of the above items.
- b. Vice Chairman Paul Hinkfuss arrived at the start of closed session. Board Member Marcia Facey arrived in middle of closed session.
- c. Mr. Hinkfuss moved, Ms. Blemberg seconded, and the Board by roll call vote of 6-0 came out of closed session.

6. Status Report from Rules of Procedure and By-Laws Review Committee

- a. Ms. Blemberg reported that the suggested revisions completed by the Committee were submitted to the Board at the December 9, 2010 meeting. Ms. Blemberg suggested that the Board lay the matter over until the May 12, 2011 meeting to allow the Board members more time to review the Rules of Procedure and By-Laws for suggestions. Ms. Blemberg asked for comments by March 1, 2011.

7. Report from the Executive Director

7.1 Status report on in-house SEI project

- a. The Ethics Board Executive Director, Veronica W. Robinson reported that a video presentation of the on-line Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) availability project was demonstrated to the Milwaukee County Judiciary Committee. The Committee was pleased with the demonstration and approved the project. The committee asked for follow-up information regarding the impact of financial disclosure requirements on public-private partnerships and on the validity and weight of electronic signatures. Ms. Robinson shared copies of the follow-up memo with the Board.
- b. The project is currently in the first stages of the on-line submission of the SEI form. The affidavit portion of the form will be replaced with an electronic signature in accord with current regulations and laws.
- c. Although the preference would be for electronic submission of the SEI form, any County Elected Official, Appointed Official or Employee who wishes to continue using paper forms will be able to continue using the current form.

- d. If there is someone who requests to view a required filer's SEI form, the requestor will have to come into the Ethics Board office to view the actual form.
- e. The Election Commission has partnered with the Ethics Board to use the online program reporting system to meet their requirements of posting election campaign funds. The Ethics Board is funding a portion of the project and fully covering the expense of the Election Commission's similar project.

7.2 Online video training for SEI form

- a. The Ethics Board Executive Director Veronica W. Robinson reported that a training video has been created to educate required filers on the process to complete their SEI form. The video was well received.
- b. The Ethics Board Administrative Assistant Harriet Caper explained what the video entailed and shared brief comments of those who have seen the video.

7.3 Status report on nomination to fill upcoming Board vacancies

- a. The Ethics Board Executive Director Veronica W. Robinson reported that due to the transition and current election process of the Milwaukee County Executive position, the Ethics Board Member nomination process has been delayed. The current Interim Milwaukee County Chief of Staff directed Ms. Robinson to begin the nomination process.
- b. The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Chair Rt. Rev. Bishop Steven A. Miller, nominated Rev. Gary B. Manning as their nominee. There hasn't been a second nominee submitted as of this date. Ms. Robinson stated that the appointment may not be presented to the Milwaukee County Board until after the Milwaukee County Executive Election of April 5, 2011.
- c. Ms. Robinson reported that Deputy Corporation Counsel Robert Andrews stated that Ethics Board Vice Chairman Paul Hinkfuss may continue to serve on the Ethics Board until a new Board member has been appointed. Mr. Hinkfuss stated he will continue on the Board until a new member is appointed.

7.4 SEI Late Filers

- a. The Ethics Board Administrative Assistant, Harriet Caper, reported that the compliance for the required SEI filers for 2011 was good. The Board is still awaiting the submission of one (1) form from a County Employee; one (1) form from a County Supervisor; and nine (9) forms from retired or resigned employees.

- b. The Ethics Board Executive Director, Veronica W. Robinson, attributed the excellent response to the electronic email reminder blasts sent to Milwaukee County Officials and Employees along with the deployment of the SEI training video.

7.5 Status Report on outside legal counsel

- a. The Ethics Board Executive Director, Veronica W. Robinson, reported that current in-house Ethics Board Deputy Corporation Counsel Robert Andrews will be retiring and will no longer be acting as in-house Counsel for the Ethics Board. Current Deputy Corporation Counsel John Jorgensen will possibly be the replacement for Attorney Andrews.
- b. The Ethics Board Executive Director, Veronica W. Robinson, reported that per current Acting Corporation Counsel Timothy Schoewe, if Attorney Robert Andrews is willing to function as the Board's outside legal counsel, Attorney Andrews can be obtained on a contract basis after he is off of the Milwaukee County payroll. Ms. Robinson will provide an update to the Board at the May 12, 2011 meeting.

8. Adjournment

- a. Ms. Blemberg moved, Ms. Facey seconded, and the Board by vote 6-0 adjourned the Ethics Board meeting until Thursday, May 12, 2011.

Minutes submitted by:



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica W. Robinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Veronica W. Robinson, Executive Director