

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
June 15 , 2005 - 3:13 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Michael F. Quirk
Robert S. Grodnicki
Miguel A. Ruiz

Mary Beth S. Robinson (absent)

Staff Present

Dorothy J. Eng, Executive Director
Steven I. Berlin, Deputy Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Milton, Attorney-Investigator

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth S. Robinson absent) to approve the open session minutes of the May 11, 2005 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Education

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 3 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend by law. On May 18, 23 attended; on June 1, 22 attended, and on June 15, 21 attended.

There are currently 24 people scheduled for class July 6, and 27 for July 20.

Staff is currently establishing the class schedule for those employees and officials—approximately 600 of them—who will be required to attend ethics training for their third quadrennial round of ethics training as required by Ordinance. These additional classes will be scheduled between October 2005 and February 2006.

On May 19, at the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol, staff met for 1 hour with Mr. Jae Myong Lee from the Transparency Team of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy Institute in South Korea, regarding the Board and its work.

On June 16, at the request of the Commissioner of Personnel, staff will make a 45-minute presentation to participants in the Mayor's Executive Development Seminar. Participants are from the City and its sister agencies.

On June 21, at the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol, staff will make a 45-minute presentation to a visiting delegation of human resources officials from the Guangzhou Municipality in the Peoples' Republic of China.

From June 22 through 30, at the request of the Buildings Commissioner, staff will conduct 6 90-minute ethics training sessions for approximately 150 building inspectors.

Staff is, at the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol, currently scheduling a 45-minute presentation on the Board to a visiting delegation of auditors from the Republic of Indonesia, to take place July 14.

On July 15, at the request of the Mayor's Office, staff will make a short presentation on the Board and its work to participants in the Mayor's Summer Fellows Program.

B. Amendment to City's Ethics Ordinance

The mayor's office has scheduled a meeting on Friday morning at 11:30 a.m. on June 17, 2005 with Alderman Laurino and members of City agencies. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss her proposed mandatory amendment for all employee ethics training by the Board of Ethics.

C. Statements of Financial Interests

On Friday, May 13, as required by Ordinance, staff sent, via certified mail and first class mail, notice of the May 31 filing deadline to the 418 employees and appointed officials who had not filed their Statements of Financial Interests with this agency.

To date, there are still 70 employees and officials who have not yet filed their Statements as required by law.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently 550 lobbyists registered with the City. Since the last meeting 8 lobbyists terminated their registration. To date, \$111,000 in lobbyist registration fees has been deposited with an additional \$200.00 that has been collected but not yet deposited. There are currently 4 lobbyists whose registrations we cannot process because their filings are to date incomplete.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last meeting the following requests for review of documents were received:

1. One request by subpoena (pursuant to personnel hearing, and requiring staff testimony) for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for all years; all available records were produced and copied.
2. One request for all lobbyist filings for one lobbyist for years 2002 - 2005; all available records were produced and reviewed.
3. One request for all lobbyist filings for one lobbyist for years 2002-2005; all available records were produced, reviewed and copied.
4. One request for review of redacted advisory opinions; 4 advisory opinions were reproduced for requestor.

F. Preliminary Budget

On June 10, 2005 our agency submitted its preliminary budget for calendar year 2006. The figure submitted totals \$620,894, approximately \$17,500 more than our 2005 budget. The \$17,000 increase is mostly attributed to increases in our graphics account, repair, maintenance and equipment account, technical meeting costs and travel reimbursement account.

More specifically, the increases are for:

- Graphics - the need for increased publications due to all employee training.
- Equipment - cost to update postage machine and company increase in the maintenance cost of Xerox copier.
- Technical meeting costs/Travel - Registration fee and travel expenses requested for staff to attend Regional Midwest Conference and Annual National COGEL conference. (Chicago is the chosen site for the national COGEL conference in 2008. Board staff has not been able to participate in the organization since 2000 due to budgetary financial constraints.)

The preliminary budget did not include needed expenses for any of the following: a new photocopier machine, proposed salary increases for existing staff, the need for 1 or more new positions if mandatory all employee training requirement is put into effect. The budget director was advised of this in the cover memorandum accompanying our budget submission.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth Robinson absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:29 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.