

Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans
Monday
July 7, 2014
2pm - 4:30pm
East New Orleans Regional Library
5641 Read Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70127

Minutes

Present: Dr. Michael Cowan, Chair; James Brown, Vice Chair; Allen Miller, Secretary; Dr. Joe Ricks, Jr., Howard Rodgers, III
Staff: Steve Scheckman, General Counsel
Felicia R. Brown, Executive Director

A quorum being present the chair called the meeting to order at 2:10pm. Mr. Brown moved to approve the minutes of June 23, 2014. A second was offered by Mr. Rodgers. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding the state's protocol for the certification of individuals and training programs on the State Code of Governmental Ethics, including a comparison of the ERB's most recent ethics training by Judy Nadler to the state's training presentations and requirements and the availability of various training opportunities by the ERB whether compliance and/or culture and values focused. Mr. Rodgers moved that the executive director become certified through the state's protocol; a second was offered by Mr. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

The executive director reported that Mr. Barnes, with Dillard University, communicated that nominations had been submitted for the administration's consideration at least a year ago. In her follow-up with him, efforts were made on June 24 and 30, as well as July 7, to confirm the status of nominations with Ms. Suchitra J. Satpathi and Mr. Eric Granderson.

A discussion ensued regarding the state ethics administration process for the referral of complaints by the ERB. The executive director noted her conversation with Kathleen Allen, state ethics administrator, in this regard. It was indicated that there is one outstanding complaint for which the state board has not communicated a disposition. In conferring with the general counsel, the executive director noted that follow-up should occur within a year from the date of referral, allowing time for review and/or investigation by the state ethics board. There are two outstanding complaints from the Louisiana Ethics Administration.

Mr. Brown moved the nomination of Dr. Cowan as chair of the Ethics Review Board. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown moved the nomination of Allen Miller as vice chair of the Ethics Review Board; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Rodgers moved for the nomination of Dr. Joe Ricks as secretary of the Ethics Review Board. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

At 2:35pm, Mr. Brown moved to recess into executive session; Mr. Rodgers offered a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 3:45pm, Mr. Brown moved that the board resume the public meeting; Mr. Rodgers offered a second; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown moved that the board retain as independent counsel, William Martin McGoey, at a flat fee of \$15,000.00, to investigate the allegation of a hostile work environment by Independent Police Monitor Susan Hutson concerning Inspector General Edouard Quatrevaux, subject to contract approval by the City of New Orleans. Mr. Rodgers offered a second. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

At 3:50pm, there being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned.