

City of Stamford Board of Ethics
Public Meeting
Stamford Government Center
April 28, 2014
Draft Minutes

Present:

Cheryl Bader, chair
Clarence Grebey III, secretary
Allan Lang, member
John Martelli, member
Daniel Sanchez, member
Sarah Summons, alternate member
Kathryn Emmett, director of legal affairs & corporation counsel, City of Stamford

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bader at 6:35 p.m.

1. Advisory Opinion for Anne T. Fountain, MPH

The panel continued discussion of a request made by Ms. Fountain, the director of health & social services for the City of Stamford seeking an advisory opinion regarding her potential attendance at events and programs sponsored by partner organizations in the community. A draft opinion was reviewed. Discussion centered on the fact that Ms. Fountain's request did not specify a specific event or program, but rather sought guidance on her participation in hypothetical events with no description of any particular event, purpose, or type of attendee.

A two-part motion was made, seconded and carried, unanimously, to: 1) Draft a letter of limited response to Ms. Fountain noting that the City Code authorizes the Board to review and opine on specific conduct, but it does not authorize the panel to categorically exempt types of conduct; and, 2) Reconvene with the goal of outlining recommendations in the Board's Annual Report that may bring clarity to the current ambiguity faced by City employees in determining whether attendance or participation in events of programs sponsored by third parties represents a conflict of interest or other violation of the City's ethics code.

2. Advisory Opinion for the Hon. Marion McGarry

Attorney Kathryn Emmett appeared before the Board seeking affirmation of an opinion the Office of Legal Affairs had provided to City Representative Marion McGarry regarding her invitation to attend the Mill River Collaborative gala on May 1, 2014. The matter was discussed and consensus reached that this issue was addressed in an advisory opinion issued by the Board last year.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, finding no conflict with the City's code of ethics in Representative McGarry's attending the gala.

3. New Business

Chairman Bader briefed the panel on a recent meeting on municipal ethics sponsored by the Connecticut Conference for Municipalities.

The motion was made, seconded, and carried, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Clarence Grebey III, Secretary