

**Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting
August 3, 2016**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on August 3, 2016 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Vice-Chair Brendan Donckers called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Commissioners Charlene Angeles, Alexandra McKay and Hardeep Rekhi were in attendance, and Commissioner Vickie Rawlins joined the meeting by telephone. Chair Eileen Norton and Commissioner Bruce Carter were absent. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Polly Grow, Rene LeBeau, Marc Mayo, Jenna Smith and Annie Tran were present.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Items

2) Appeal of Dismissal in Case No. 16-1-0714-1

The Director explained that he had dismissed the complaint regarding the use of the Central Library for a candidate forum to which only three of the nine candidates for the 7th District Congressional Seat were invited because of the Library's eleventh hour decision to contract with the City Club for the use of the Central Library's auditorium.

The Vice-Chair then invited Craig Keller to speak to his appeal. Mr. Keller said that he believed that more investigation was required into the gift of public assets to the three candidates.

Linda Regier also spoke in favor of Mr. Keller's appeal, asking the Commission to make the process fair for all. Bruce Bolton also spoke in favor of the appeal.

At approximately 4:45, the Chair announced that the Commission would go into executive session for 15 minutes. At approximately 5:00, the Chair came out and announced that the Commission would continue in executive session for an additional 10 minutes.

After returning from executive session, Commissioner Angeles made a motion to continue the hearing until the next meeting, and Vice-Chair Donckers seconded the motion. Both asked Assistant City Attorney Jeff Slayton for an analysis of what affect a dismissal had on a complainant's capacity to refile a complaint if new information came to light. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

3) Public hearing on Rule 14, Public Office Funds

John King from Fix Democracy First testified in favor of abolishing Office Funds altogether, noting that Seattle is the only jurisdiction in the State where public office funds are used.

The Director recapped the year-long effort that culminated in the draft rule before the Commission. He said that the rule better serves the public interest by clearly defining what types of expenditures are permissible.

Following an in-depth discussion of the rules governing use of office funds to purchase tickets to sporting events, Commissioner Rekhi made a motion to adopt Rule 14, which Commissioner Angeles seconded. The vote to adopt Rule 14 was unanimous.

Discussion Items

4) I-122 status report

Rene LeBeau told the Commission that the staff had moved into the new office space. She also told the Commission that a contract had been executed with a vendor to build the on-

line portal for the Democracy Voucher program. Discussions were also underway with vendors to provide translation services and printing and mailing services.

Annie Tran talked about creating a brand for the program, and shared with the Commission the plans for the website launch on August 16.

5) Executive Director's report

The Director briefly updated the Commission on the efforts to identify a temporary employee to assist the Commission while Anthony Adams worked out of class.

The Regular Commission meeting for August 3, 2016 adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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