

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

April 4, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on April 4, 2018 in Room 4096 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Brendan Donckers called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Commissioners Bruce Carter, Eileen Norton and Hardeep Singh Rekhi were present. Commissioners Charlene Angeles and Vickie Rawlins were not in attendance. Executive Director Wayne Barnett was joined by staff and Assistant City Attorney Jeff Slayton.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Discussion Items

2) Widely shared financial interests and the Ethics Code

The Executive Director introduced Alberta Bleck from Councilmember Bagshaw's office, and Patricia Lee from Council Central staff, who were present for the discussion. The Director began by discussing the Council bill that the Commission generated two years ago, which passed the Governance, Equity, and Technology Committee unanimously. The bill never passed the full Council though, and did not receive a warm reception when it was revived earlier this year.

Commissioner Norton asked the Director if the City Council suggested any alternatives to the approach offered by the Commission in 2016. The Director mentioned that Councilmember Lisa Herbold referenced past language created by then-Councilmember Tim Burgess as a possible avenue to resolving this issue.

Commissioner Norton reiterated her support for finding a way not to have District representatives recused on matters of import to their constituents, a view echoed by several of her colleagues.

The Director asked the Commission to request a redraft of the legislation introduced in 2016, to give the Commission the authority to draft a rule along the lines of the one adopted in California for dealing with widely shared financial interests. The Commission asked Assistant City Attorney Slayton to work on such language.

3) FIS status report

The Director reported that almost 90 percent of officers and employees charged with filing reports had completed those reports with almost two weeks remaining. He said work was ongoing to collect the approximately 200 forms still outstanding.

4) I-122 status report

The Director said that work was ongoing on changes to I-122, and previewed a recommendation from the consultants retained to evaluate the program to delay the mailing date from the first business day of the year.

Rene LeBeau said that the final BERK Consulting report would be available for the Commission to review on or about April 20, 2018.

Lastly, Ms. LeBeau reported that IT project staff were hard at work on the design of the online voucher program.

5) Executive Director's report

The Director introduced Nick Brown, who had been nominated by Mayor Durkan to fill the vacancy on the Commission. The Chair asked about a timeline for getting Mr. Brown confirmed. The Director said that he had already been in touch with the Council President's

office, and he hoped to have Mr. Brown confirmed in time for the May meeting. If that was too ambitious, he was confident that Mr. Brown would be through the process in time for the June meeting.

The regular Commission meeting for April 4, 2018 adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

DRAFT