

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

OPEN MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2024

A meeting of the Baltimore County Ethics Commission was called to order at 3:35 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The meeting was held by WebEx and consisted of both an open session and a closed session. The initial (open) session began at 3:35 p.m. Present were:

Mandee Heidl, Chair
Laura Ray, Commissioner
Sasha Rousseau, Commissioner
Hunter Piel, Commissioner

Also present were Tracey Paliath, Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, and James R. Benjamin Jr. County Attorney, counsel for the Commission. Absent was Kevin Murphy, Commissioner.

Call to Order:

Chair Heidl called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Piel and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the open and closed meeting minutes for the November 14, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, except for Chair Heidl who abstained because she was not present at the November 14, 2024 meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Director Paliath reported that she met with the County Administrative Officer to review her decisions about who should be filing. Overall, there was a reduction in the number of employees filing and no changes to the Board or Commission members who file.

Director Paliath also reported that she has begun receiving lobbyist activity reports for the calendar year 2024, which are all due on January 31, 2025 and a summary report will be posted on the County website after that date. Chair Heidl asked how lobbyists file their disclosures. Director Paliath explained they scan and email them to her with information in a variety of cost categories, including the compensation they received from their clients. Lobbyists must report individually and if they are with the same firm, pro rate the compensation received among individually registered lobbyists.

Old Business:

Employee R.B. contacted Director Paliath and asked that she pass along her thanks to the Commission for their consideration of her inquiry at the last meeting.

Move into Closed Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau to move into closed session as names of complaints and respondents would be mentioned and legal advice was needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piel. The Commissioners were polled and the motion unanimously passed. The Commission went into closed session at 3:41 p.m.

End of Closed Session

At 4:28 p.m. Chair Heintz made a motion to go back into open session; it was seconded by Commissioner Piel and the members were polled. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went back into open session.

Move into Open Session

The Commissioners decided to schedule the next 3 meetings. They decided the meetings would be on:

January 9 at 3:30 pm in person at the historic courthouse

February 13 at 3:30 pm by WebEx

March 6 at 3:00 pm – to be determined whether it will be in person or by WebEx

Adjournment

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Piel and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau and passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.