

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

OPEN MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

A meeting of the Baltimore County Ethics Commission was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. The meeting was held by WebEx and consisted of both an open session and a closed session. The initial (open) session began at 1:05 p.m. Present were:

Mandee Heintz, Chair
Laura Ray, Commissioner
Sasha Rousseau, Commissioner
Hunter Piel, Commissioner
Kevin Murphy, Commissioner

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

Call to Order:

Chair Heintz called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Piel to approve the open and closed meeting minutes for the September 3, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Director Paliath reminded all Commissioners who had not yet watched the ethics training video to do so immediately.

Director Paliath reported that one financial disclosure filer (on a Board) had not filed his/her financial disclosure for 2023. In accordance with the Commission's instructions at the September 3, 2024 meeting, Director Paliath reported that she mailed a letter and another paper copy of the disclosure to fill out and asked the filer to return the completed disclosure to the Board liaison at their October meeting.

Finally, Director Paliath reported that she had presented on the Commission's advisory opinions 24-06 and 24-07 regarding the Fair Elections Commission to the Fair Elections Commissioners on 9/9/24. One question: can I serve as counsel to an alcoholic beverage association non-profit and still serve on FEF Commission. The answer was yes, he can serve in both capacities because that association can't donate to anyone who opts to take FEF funding for their campaign so there is no conflict.

Old Business:

Chair Heidl asked Commissioner Piel if he was in favor of sending the sports tickets county-wide email out to inform people that they cannot accept sports tickets from entities doing business with their board or Department. Commissioner Piel voted to send the email out as is and sent Director Paliath an email memorializing his decision, as the other commissioners had done.

Move into Closed Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray 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 Rousseau. The Commissioners were polled and the motion unanimously passed. The Commission went into closed session at 1:15 pm.

End of Closed Session

At 1:45 p.m. Commissioner Piel made a motion to go back into open session; it was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and the members were polled. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went back into open session.

Move into Open Session

The Commissioners discussed that they would like to do the next meeting on Oct. 1 by webex instead of in-person and have it at 1:30pm instead of 3:30 pm.

Adjournment

A Motion to Adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

The next regular Ethics Commission Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. by WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Paliath, Executive Director