

Town of Riverdale Park
Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.

In Attendance

John Wells
Corey Beauford
Andrea Huberty

Frederick Sussman, Town Attorney
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mr. Wells.

Agenda Approval

Ms. Huberty made a motion to approve the January 15, 2020, Ethics Commission meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beauford. Vote: 3-0 (favorable)

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Beauford made a motion to approve the July 22, 2019, Ethics Commission meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huberty. Vote: 3-0 (favorable)

Unfinished Business

1. Review status of CY 2018 Financial Disclosure Statements

Town Attorney Fred Sussman provided an update on the two items from the previous Commission meeting that were outstanding:

1. Assistant Chief Guixens made the required revisions and her submission was sufficient.
2. CM Faulx had not submitted a CY2018 Financial Disclosure Statement. Chairman Wells stated that he had not contacted CM Faulx regarding his submission as discussed at the July 22nd Commission Meeting. There was a consensus of the Commission to have Town Clerk Barnes send an e-mail to CM Faulx on behalf of the Commission to require him to respond within 15 calendar days or the Commission would consider possible sanctions.

2. Discussion regarding letter of advice dated September 11, 2019 from the Maryland Attorney General regarding financial disclosure requirements for municipal police officers

Town Attorney Fred Sussman gave an overview of the Letter of Advice received by the Town. He stated that the letter indicated that a local government could not compel a law

enforcement officer to provide financial information except as necessary to determine or investigate potential conflicts of interest.

Mr. Sussman stated that there was an exemption in state law regarding requests made by the State Ethics Commission and a possible option would be to request that the General Assembly to enact curative legislation to expand the exemption to include Local Government Ethics Commissions.

The Commission discussed potential challenges and the need for additional information. Outreach to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) was discussed.

Mr. Wells asked if the short form should be amended to seek more information. Ms. Huberty asked if there were other internal processes in place, such as audits, that could identify potential conflicts of interest. Ms. Huberty suggested requesting clarification from the Chief of Police regarding procurement responsibilities in the Police Department.

Ms. Huberty stated that she was fine with the Lieutenants completing the short form but would like to receive more information about the Police Department's procurement procedures with regard to the positions that have roles and responsibilities in the process. Mr. Beauford agreed.

Mr. Wells stated that he would prepare correspondence to the Chief of Police and CM Faulx. He stated that he would send it to the other Commission members for their review and input with the intent to send the correspondence on Tuesday, January 22nd. There were no objections.

Mr. Beauford made a motion to require that Lieutenants of the Police Department submit the short form for CY2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huberty. Vote: 3-0 (favorable)

Hearings

No hearings were scheduled for the January 15, 2020 Ethics Commission meeting.

New Business

1. CY 2019 Financial Disclosure Statements

The Commission reviewed the draft CY2019 Financial Disclosure Statements. Ms. Huberty suggested removing the checklist on long form.

Ms. Huberty made a motion to remove the checklist from the long form for CY2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beauford. Vote 3-0 (favorable)

The Commission discussed whether two cover memos were needed, and Mr. Beauford stated that he did not see a need for two cover memos. There were no objections.

Ms. Huberty made a motion to approve the cover memo, short form, and long form consistent with changes made during the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beauford. Vote: 3-0 (favorable)

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting

The next Ethics Commission meeting was scheduled for March 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Huberty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beauford. Vote: 3-0 (favorable)