

Town of Riverdale Park
Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021
7:30 p.m.

In Attendance

John Wells, Chair
April Engram, Alternate
Andrea Huberty

Frederick Sussman, Town Attorney
Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services/Town Clerk

Absent

Corey Beauford

Call to Order

Mr. Wells called the meeting to order at 8:27 p.m.

Roll Call

1. Agenda Approval

Ms. Huberty made a motion to approve the April 8, 2021 Ethics Commission agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Engram. Vote: 3-0 (Favorable)

2. Approval of Minutes: January 12, 2021

Ms. Huberty made a motion to approve the Ethics Commission minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Engram. Vote: 3-0 (Favorable)

Unfinished Business

Mr. Wells discussed the presentation that was made to the Mayor and Council in March. Mr. Wells reported that the Mayor and Council were appreciative of the work of the Ethics Commission members.

Hearings

There were no hearings scheduled for the April 8, 2021 Ethics Commission meeting.

New Business

1. Review of Financial Disclosure Statements: Candidates for 2021 Town Election on May 3, 2021

Town Attorney Fred Sussman provided an overview of the Candidate's Financial Disclosure Statements.

Town Clerk Barnes relayed the concerns of the Chief and Deputy Chief Election Judges relating to incomplete Financial Disclosure Statement submissions. Town Attorney Sussman discussed the role of the Ethics Commission and the review of the candidate's Financial Disclosure Statements. The Commission discussed the need for clarity in the Town Code regarding the role of the Election Judges and Ethics Commission as it related to Town Elections. Town Attorney Sussman stated that Chapter 32 of the Town Code provided guidance regarding the role of the Ethics Commission.

Town Attorney Sussman reported:

1. Candidate Sadiq's Financial Disclosure Statement was missing the date on the cover page.
2. Candidate Mayers' Financial Disclosure Statement was sufficient.
3. Candidate Lingua's Financial Disclosure Statement was missing the second question on Schedule H.
4. Candidate Faulx's Financial Disclosure Statement was sufficient.
5. Candidate Thompson's Financial Disclosure Statement was missing questions 3 and question 6 on all Schedule Bs submitted.
6. Candidate Dixon's Financial Disclosure Statement was sufficient.
7. Candidate Mejia's Financial Disclosure Statement was missing the signature on the cover page and Schedule A question 5 needed to be completed.
8. Candidate Richardson's Financial Disclosure Statement was missing a signature and date on the cover page.

Mr. Wells discussed the section of Chapter 32 regarding candidates for election. Mr. Wells suggested that the candidates file a revision to their Financial Disclosure Statement within 5 days and then report back to the Election Judges. Town Clerk Barnes stated that the Commission had followed a similar process in 2019 and sent Notices of Deficiency to candidates that needed to revise their Financial Disclosure Statements.

Ms. Huberty stated that the Financial Disclosure Statements did not clearly indicate that they must be signed and dated in order for them to be considered. Ms. Engram discussed clarifying revisions needed to the Financial Disclosure Statement form.

Town Attorney Sussman discussed Schedule A on Candidate Mejia's Financial Disclosure Statement. Town Attorney Sussman stated that Schedule A needed to be clarified in the future to address tenancy not just home ownership. Ms. Huberty stated that only the second part of Schedule A, question 5 needed to be completed by Candidate Mejia and questions and 7, 8, 9, and 10 were sufficient. Ms. Engram agreed.

Ms. Engram made a motion to inform the candidates of deficiencies and allow them five days to submit a revised Financial Disclosure Statement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huberty. Vote: 3-0 (Favorable)

Town Attorney Sussman clarified that Candidates Sadiq, Lingua, Thompson, Mejia, and Richardson would receive Notices of Deficiency.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting

The Ethics Commission will meet on April 15th at 6:15 p.m. to review the revised Financial Disclosure Statements submitted by candidates.

Adjournment

Ms. Huberty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Engram. Vote: 3-0 (Favorable)