

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Regular Meeting

December 4, 2013

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission convened on December 4, 2013 in Room 4080 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue. Commission Chair Bill Sherman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Commissioners Brad Axel and Bruce Carter were present, and Commissioners David Mendoza and Kendee Yamaguchi were present via telephone. Vice-Chair Rich Cohan and Commissioner Lorena González were not in attendance. Executive Director Wayne Barnett and staff members Anthony Adams, Polly Grow and Gary Keese were present. Assistant City Attorney Gary Smith was also in attendance.

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action Item

2) Special meeting minutes for July 19, 2013

3) Regular meeting minutes for August 7, 2013

4) Special meeting minutes for September 18, 2013

5) Regular meeting minutes for October 2, 2013

Commissioner Axel moved to adopt the minutes from the previous Regular and Special meetings in July, August, September and October. Commissioner Carter seconded. The Regular and Special meeting minutes from July, August, September and October were unanimously approved.

6) Election of officers of 2014

Commissioner Carter moved to re-elect Chair Sherman and Vice-Chair Cohan to their same positions for the 2014 term. Commissioner Axel seconded the motion. The motion to elect the Commission officers for 2014 was unanimously adopted.

7) Merit leave determination for Executive Director

The Chair took the Commission into executive session at 4:08 to discuss the Executive Director's performance. The public session resumed at 4:18. The Chair thanked the Director for his performance and noted the work that staff had performed on public financing, changes to the Whistleblower Protection Code, as well as the work for the Seattle Public Schools.

Commissioner Axel made a motion to award the Director four days of merit leave. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

8) Executive Director's report

The Executive Director told the Commission that the bill to amend the Whistleblower Protection Code had passed the Government Performance and Finance Committee, and he expected the full Council to vote on the bill the subsequent Monday. Gary Keese then detailed for the Commission the plan to train employees on the new law.

Commissioner Carter asked staff to give some thought to what issues might warrant the Commission's attention in the new year. The Chair asked staff to give special attention to issues that might require a fresh look with the City's transition to district elections.

The Executive Director told the Commission that David Mendoza will not seek reappointment to the Commission. Commissioner Mendoza told the Commission that he will be President of the Latina/o Bar Association in 2014, and will not have the time required to effectively serve on the Commission.

The Regular Commission meeting for December 4m 2013 adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

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