

Metropolitan Board of Ethical Conduct
Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The Board of Ethical Conduct held a meeting on this date in Metropolitan Council Committee Room 1 of the Second Floor of the Historic Courthouse in Nashville, Tennessee.

Persons in Attendance:

Diane DiIanni, Board Chair
Brigid Carpenter, Board Member
Kirsten Grimes, Board Member
John Spragens, Board Member
Kinika Young, Board Member
Council Member Suara, Ex-Officio Member

Tom Cross, Legal Counsel
Nicki Eke, Legal Counsel
Courtney Mohan, Legal Counsel
Austin Kyle, Metropolitan Clerk
Shawn Reed, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period

No members of the public signed up to speak.

Approval of Minutes of April 29, 2024

Ms. Young moved to approve the minutes of April 29, 2024, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (5): DiIanni, Carpenter, Grimes, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

Announcement of Appeal Rights

The Clerk announced that parties who disagree with a final decision of the Board may appeal by filing a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery Court within sixty (60) days of entry of the Order, and parties are encouraged to seek independent legal advice to ensure that applicable procedures and deadlines are properly followed.

Consideration of Motion to Continue filed by Carol McCoy (Arts Commission)

Chair DiIanni gave a brief summary of the role of the Board pursuant to the Metro Code of Laws and the process they would be following for consideration of the motion for a continuance.

Rebecca Lyford introduced herself as a representative for Ms. Carol McCoy.

Chair DiIanni summarized the arguments in the motion as well as the opposition to the motion submitted by Ms. Lydia Yousief. Chair DiIanni stated that if the motion to continue was not approved, the hearing would still need to take place on a separate date since the hearing was not noticed on the agenda.

After discussion, Ms. Young moved to deny the motion to continue, which motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (5): DiIanni, Carpenter, Grimes, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0).

The hearing on this matter was scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Summary and Discussion of Department of Law memorandum re: Griswold v. Council Member Joy Styles

Legal Counsel Eke provided a summary of the Department of Law memorandum regarding the complaint filed by Mr. John Griswold against Council Member Joy Styles. Ms. Eke indicated the Department of Law report recommended dismissal of allegation numbers 1, 2, and 3 concerning Councilmember Joy Styles’ failure to respond to messages and engage in a professional manner with the complainant. Ms. Eke indicated that, if true, allegation number 4 regarding non-compliance with the 2022 and 2023 annual disclosure requirements would give rise to a violation of the Standards of Conduct and recommended a hearing to be held on this allegation.

After discussion, Ms. Young moved to adopt the recommendations of the Department of Law memo to dismiss the allegation number 1, 2, and 3 and to hold a hearing on the on allegation number 4, which motion was properly seconded and approved by the following vote: “Ayes” (5): DiIanni, Carpenter, Grimes, Spragens, and Young; “Noes” (0); “Abstain” (0). Chair DiIanni stated that the Board would be moving forward with a hearing on this matter. The hearing was scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Next Steps/Scheduling

The hearings for the matters Yousief v. Carol McCoy (Arts Commission) and Griswold v. Council Member Styles are scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Upon motion properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.