

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
September 14, 2005 - 3:12 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Michael F. Quirk
Robert S. Grodnicki
Miguel A. Ruiz

Mary Beth S. Robinson (absent)

Staff Present

Dorothy J. Eng, Executive Director
Steven I. Berlin, Deputy Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Milton, Attorney-Investigator
Pauilly Casillas, Staff Assistant
Jef Johnson, Coordinator of Special Projects

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth Robinson absent) to approve the open session minutes of the July 11, 2005 meeting.

II. Chair's Report

III. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director announced that Miguel A. Ruiz and Mary Beth Robinson have both accepted reappointment to the Board by the Mayor.

A. Education

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 4 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend by law. On July 20, 39 attended; on August 3, 26 attended; on August 17, 19 attended; and on September 7, 8 attended.

There are currently 30 people scheduled to attend September 21, and 32 on October 5.

On July 15, at the request of the Mayor's Office, staff made a 20-minute presentation on the Board and its work to 20 participants in the Mayor's Summer Fellows Program.

At the request of the Mayor's Office of Protocol, staff made the following presentations on the Board and its work:

On July 15, a 60-minute presentation to a visiting delegation of 22 auditors from the Republic of Indonesia;

On August 15, a 60-minute presentation to 25 members of the Beijing Municipal Supervision Bureau Delegation;

On August 18, a 60-minute presentation 6 members from the Government of the Tongzhou District;

On August 24, a 60-minute presentation to 30 members of the Beijing Human Resources Development and Management Delegation; and

On September 1, a 60-minute presentation to the Anti-corruption Prosecutor from the Attorney General's Office of the Public Ministry of the Republic of Panama.

On September 12, at the request of the Department of Cultural Affairs, staff made a 90-minute presentation on the lobbyist laws to 11 departmental employees.

Board staff continues to work with members of the Mayor's Office on the development of an all employee interactive web based training program.

B. Statements of Financial Interests

On July 11th this Board found 29 employees who were required to file a Statement of Financial Interests by May 31st, in violation of the City's filing requirements. Three of these employees have yet to file their statements.

On September 14, staff sent Statements of Financial Interests forms to 278 employees who became subject to the Ordinance's filing requirement after the March 2005 mailing. The filers were notified of the requirement by their Department Ethics Officers or via U.S. mail. They have been advised that they must file their forms by October 21, 2005.

C. Budget

On August 10, Board staff submitted to the Budget Office the proposed 2006 Budget for this agency. The amount requested was for \$802,486. - a 33% increase over the total amount appropriated for 2005 which was \$603,286.

The majority of the increase requested is attributable to costs associated with the proposed required annual training of all City employees. The \$802,486 figure includes a request for 2 new positions at the Board, a Training Director, and an Assistant to the Director.

Subsequent to submission of our proposed budget, Board staff was advised that this agency would have joint oversight and review of all employee outside employment requests, which pursuant to the Personnel Rules must be submitted in writing by employees and approved or disapproved in writing by department heads. As a result of this proposed added responsibility, a 3rd new position to the Board (an attorney

position) has been requested. The figure associated with that position is not included in the originally proposed written budget of \$802,486 that was submitted August 10th.

The cost of the development and upkeep of the web based program and the data system for tracking annual employee attendance is to be paid for by the Technology Development Division of the Mayor's Office.

A copy of the 2006 proposed budget was made available for review.

D. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently 620 lobbyists registered with the City. Since the last meeting 5 lobbyists terminated their registration. To date, \$121,400 in lobbyist registration fees has been deposited with an additional \$2,600.00 that has been collected but not yet deposited. There are currently 9 lobbyists whose registrations or amendments or activity reports staff cannot process because their filings are to date incomplete.

On July 25, 2005, the computer development team, designated by the City's Department of Business and Information Services, began working with the Board's staff on the construction of the Board's electronic lobbyist filing system. The project should be completed by the end of the year for our next Lobbyists Registration period.

E. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last meeting the following requests for review of documents were received:

1. One request for all lobbyist filings for one lobbyist for years 1999 and 2001; all available records were produced and reviewed.
2. One request for all lobbyist filings for three lobbyists for 2005, since June 1st; all available records were produced, and reviewed.
3. One request for 1995-1996 and 1997-1998 annual reports; reports were produced and copies made.
4. One request for aldermanic recusals for September 1, 2004 - August 31, 2005; all available records produced and reviewed, and copies made for June 2, 2004 - July 29, 2005; August 26, 2005 and November 13, 2004.
5. One request for one employee's Statements of Financial Interests, for years 2004 and 2005; all available records were produced and copied.

6. One request for all lobbyist filings for one lobbyist for years 2002-2005; these records were made available and reviewed.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Mary Beth Robinson absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:29 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.