

TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

N. KEITH CHAMBERS
DIRECTOR



BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS
DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
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OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
February 26, 2020

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order: The February 26, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Juliet Sorensen, Von Matthews and Tom Szromba

Staff Members Present: Director N. Keith Chambers, Deputy Director Gina Smith, Legal Counsel Emily Stewart, Investigator Jarrie Brown and Administrative Analyst Kisha Johns

B. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

C. Statements by the General Public

Scott Kane Stukel of Cameron and Kane, LLC made a statement on behalf of his client Coco Soodek. Mr. Kane requested the Board investigate alleged campaign finance violations involving Board of Review Commissioner Michael Carbonagi. Mr. Streetman also urged the Board to “take a stand” on the Cabonargi complaint before the upcoming election.

D. Approval of the 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

Chair Sorensen noted that she may not be able to make two of the meetings, but moved ahead with the vote since she didn’t know if she would be reappointed to the Board. The Board then approved the 2020 regular meeting schedule.

E. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

A motion was made to adopt the January 23, 2020 meeting minutes with former Chair Peggy Daley’s written statement attached. The motion was seconded and adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

F. Update on Changes to the Ethics Ordinance

Chair Sorensen said that she had been contacted by a number of individuals regarding the Board’s proposed amendments to the Ethics Ordinance, including a number of Cook County Commissioners. Chair Sorensen also reached out to the Cook County President’s Special Counsel, Laura Lechowicz, to set up a meeting to further discuss the amendments. Director Chambers also stated that he wanted any amendments to the Ordinance to also define certain terms within the Ordinance.

G. Director’s Report

Director N. Keith Chambers noted that the department has two distinct divisions of labor and that a great deal of the staff's time has been spent addressing budget matters, preparing to hire three additional staff members and moving offices.

At 2:40 p.m., the Board adjourned into Executive Session to review minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4), (11) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act.

OPEN SESSION II:

At 3:16 p.m., the Board reconvened into open session.

H. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the Closed Session of the Board's January 23, 2020 regular meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

I. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items, if any

The Board voted to approve opening an investigation into 20MUI01

J. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff