

CITY OF STAMFORD
Board of Ethics
Stamford Government Center
(Meeting held virtually via Zoom)
August 17, 2022
Draft Minutes

This Meeting was recorded, and the audio recording is available from the Board of Ethics and the City of Stamford. Such audio recording is intended to be the official public record of the Meeting and not these minutes, and such recording is incorporated into these minutes by reference and made a part hereof. These minutes summarize the proceedings and are not intended as verbatim notes.

Present Members:

Allan Lang, Chair
Fred Springer, Member
Myrna Sessa, Member
Monica Smyth, Member
Christine Dzujna, Member
Benjamin Folkinshteyn, Member
Kevin Quinn, Alternate

Other:

Stephen Conover, Counsel
Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician
Stephen Fischer, member of the Urban Redevelopment Commission
Various members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lang at 7:03 p.m.

1. Chairman Lang presented the June 15, 2022, Board of Ethics (“BOE”) Meeting Draft Minutes for review and approval. Mr. Springer moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Folkinshteyn seconded, all others in favor. The motion passed.
2. Chairman Lang invited Urban Redevelopment Commission (“URC”) member Stephen Fischer to share the issue for which he is seeking an advisory opinion: The URC is in the process of awarding a grant to the Stamford Veterans Park Partnership for improvement of, and education about, Veterans Memorial Park. It has been suggested that his strong support of the project presents a conflict of interest because he is a veteran and Commander of the Stamford Veterans Council.

After questioning of Mr. Fischer and discussion among the BOE members, the BOE concluded that no conflict of interest exists as it is defined in the City Code of Ethics.

Mr. Springer moved that the BOE not issue an advisory opinion and simply advise Mr. Fischer of the BOE's conclusion, seconded by Mr. Folkinshteyn, discussion ensued. Mr. Conover clarified that under the new Code of Ethics, any follow up communication to the requestor of an advisory opinion should be in writing.

A vote by roll call was taken: Mr. Folkinshteyn, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Springer were in favor; Ms. Dzujna, Chair Lang, Ms. Sessa, and Ms. Smyth opposed - 3 in favor, 4 opposed. Motion not carried.

Ms. Smyth moved that a written advisory opinion be issued specifically addressing the reasons why Code of Ethics sections 19-4, 19-5, and 19-6 are not applicable in this matter.

A vote by roll call was taken: Ms. Dzujna, Chair Lang, Mr. Quinn, Ms. Sessa, and Ms. Smyth in favor; Mr. Springer opposed; Mr. Folkinshteyn abstained - 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion carried. Chair Lang and Ms. Smyth were appointed to draft the advisory opinion.

Chairman Lang adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Dzujna, Secretary