# City of Rochester Board of Ethics - October 21, 2014

# MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Board Chair Carl Steinbrenner.

#### Members present:

Carl Steinbrenner Honorable Loretta Scott Saul Maneiro Calvin Lee Chris Lindley Tim Weir

#### Members not present:

James Antonevich

#### **Non-Members Present:**

Deputy Corporation Counsel Brian Curran

#### **Reading of Agenda:**

• Chair Steinbrenner reviewed the Agenda for the meeting.

# **Approval of Minutes:**

• Minutes for the September 9, 2014 meeting were approved by a vote of 6 - 0.

#### **Business**

• Board Secretary Weir reported on the status of the City's annual financial disclosure process. On September 26, 2014, Secretary Weir sent delinquency letters to those Board and Commission members out of compliance pursuant to the City Charter, Section 2-18 Subsection G(5). To date, seven Board and Commission members remain out of compliance. Secretary Weir explained the ethics code subcommittee is considering removing the financial disclosure requirement for advisory board members as part of several proposed amendments to the City's ethics code. According to Deputy Corporation Counsel Curran, General Municipal Law does not require advisory board members to participate in the financial disclosure process.

• Secretary Weir also provided an update on the subcommittee's progress in amending the ethics code and advised the subcommittee is following a "best practices" approach by benchmarking the City's code against other municipal ethics codes.

### **New Business**

• Board Member Scott advised she was recently contacted by Councilwoman Ortiz regarding her concerns about the recent change in leadership at the Rochester Housing Authority. Secretary Weir advised he had been contacted by Councilwoman Ortiz via email and confirmed that Councilwoman Ortiz submitted specific concerns to the Office of Public Integrity for review. The Board then discussed what constituted a formal advisory opinion request and what protocol should be followed going forward. Chairman Steinbrenner requested that Secretary Weir follow up with Councilwoman Ortiz to confirm her desire to submit a formal request to the ethics board for an advisory opinion and discuss the process by which this could be accomplished.

# Adjournment

• Chairman Steinbrenner made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Board Member Lee. Motion was approved 6 - 0.

# Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Next Meeting:	November 18, 2014; 6:30 p.m.
	<b>Rochester City Hall</b>
	30 Church Street, Room 208A