## City of Rochester Board of Ethics – January 18, 2018

#### **MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Board Chair Carl Steinbrenner.

# **Members present:**

Carl Steinbrenner Honorable Loretta Scott James Antonevich Saul Maneiro Tim Weir

## **Members not present:**

Calvin Lee

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

Tim Curtin, Corporation Counsel

## **Reading of Agenda:**

• Chair Steinbrenner reviewed the Agenda for the meeting.

# **Approval of Minutes:**

• Minutes for the December 12, 2017 meeting were approved 5-0.

# **Pending Business:**

• The Board continued discussion of a request contained in a letter from Andrew Seager dated October 11, 2017 for an opinion regarding a vote of the City Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board noted that most of the issues raised in Mr. Seager's letter relate to the merits of the Zoning Board's decision, and that those issues are outside the scope of the Board of Ethics. The Board agreed to issue an advisory opinion focused on the principles that apply when a member of a board should recuse themselves from voting, or should disclose some prior association with a party to an application. Board member Antonevich agreed to prepare a draft advisory opinion which will be reviewed at the February 13th meeting.

#### **New Business:**

• The Board discussed a letter from *Rochester For All* dated December 20, 2017. The letter requested an advisory opinion regarding the City's purchase of 100 books authored by Mr. Cedric Alexander in July 2016. The Board requested more information from the City regarding the purpose of the book purchase and verification that the books were provided to the community. Corporation Counsel Tim Curtin agreed to obtain the requested information prior to the next meeting.

The Board discussed a second letter from *Rochester For All* dated December 26, 2017. This letter requested an advisory opinion regarding Deputy Mayor Alexander's business activities and whether these activities created a conflict of interest. Based on the information provided, the Board determined the facts presented were insufficient to support the issuance of an advisory opinion. In addition, members agreed that the evaluation of an employee's work performance is more appropriately addressed by the employee's supervisor.

The Board also discussed a third letter from *Rochester For All* dated January 1, 2018. The letter expressed concerns over the Mayor's use of social media. The Board considered this matter to be a policy issue and not within its scope of authority to review.

- The Board discussed the current open board member position and President Scott advised that City Council has initiated the selection process.
- Corporation Counsel Curtin advised the Board that a City attorney will be designated to support the Board in the near future.

## Adjournment

• Chair Steinbrenner made a motion to adjourn which was approved 5 - 0.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2018; 6:30 p.m.

**Rochester City Hall** 

30 Church Street, Room 208A