City of Rochester Board of Ethics – December 12, 2017

MINUTES

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

Members present:

Carl Steinbrenner Calvin Lee Honorable Loretta Scott James Antonevich

Members not present: Saul Maneiro

Tim Weir

Non-Members Present: Brian Curran, Corporation Counsel

Reading of Agenda:

• Chair Steinbrenner reviewed the Agenda for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

• Minutes for the August 8, 2017 meeting were approved by a vote of 4 - 0.

Pending Business:

• The Board discussed a pending request from Howard Eagle for an opinion. The issue related to information requested by City Councilmembers during the City budget process, and whether that information was obtained or used improperly for a political purpose by a member of the Council. Additional information was received from the City Council staff that indicated that the news reporter obtained the information as part of a general request to City Council staff for all budget related questions and answers. There was no evidence that the information was provided by the Council member. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Board agreed that the Board declines to take up this issue because the facts were not as stated in the request for an advisory opinion.

New Business:

- Brian Curran distributed oath of office forms for members to sign.
- The Board discussed 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 discussed the issue and 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. In this case, a member of the Zoning Board had a friendly personal relationship with a party, but no material or financial interest in the application. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Board agreed to accept this matter for the purpose of an advisory opinion that would provide guidance for future situations of a similar nature. 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. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

• Chair Steinbrenner made a motion to adjourn which was approved 4 - 0.

Next Meeting:	January 16, 2018; 6:30 p.m.
	Rochester City Hall
	30 Church Street, Room 208A