



**ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, August 24, 2010**

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Henson called the Commission meeting to order on or about 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Chair Jim Henson, Lisa Tsai, Velva Price, Susan Morrison, James Sassin and Abu Hafiz.

**Staff in Attendance: Sabine Romero, Assistant City Attorney**

Although not on the agenda Chair Henson and the Commission Members welcomed new Commission Member Abu Hafiz.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION.**

Agenda item 1: No citizen communication.

**2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13, 2010 MINUTES**

Agenda item 2: The minutes were not included in the agenda back up materials. Therefore, Commission Member Price moved and Commission Member Sassin seconded that this item be tabled until the next meeting. The motion passed 6-0.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

Agenda item 3(a): Discuss letter to Council delivered July 2010 & related Ordinance. Chair Henson advised the Commission that their letter and draft Ordinances were delivered to City Council on July 27, 2010 and that with a few minor changes the Ordinances drafted by the Commission were passed by the City Council during its August 19, 2010 meeting.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Agenda item 4(a): Approve the revised bylaws. After a short briefing by Assistant City Attorney Sabine Romero concerning the proposed changes, Commission Member Price moved that should a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission fall on a holiday, the meeting would be held on the first Tuesday immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting and the meetings will be scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. Commission Member Sassin seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

- b. Agenda item 4(b): Election of Officers. The Commission had a general discussion concerning the terms of the individual board members. Commission Member Price moved that Chair Henson and Vice Chair Tsai continue to serve in the current positions for another year. Commission Member Sassin seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- c. Agenda item 4(c): Approve form, "Statement of Financial Information: July Update" for Mayor & Council use and Schedule V per Council action on August 19. Assistant City Attorney Romero briefed the Commission on the changes proposed by the City Clerk's office. After some discussion Commission Member Price moved that the changes to the "Statement of Financial Information: July Update" be approved as discussed and the Vice Chair Tsai would be the contact person for Assistant City Attorney Romero to contact to review and give final approval before the changes are submitted to the City Clerk. Chair Henson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Assistant City Attorney Romero next discussed proposed changes to Schedule V necessitated by the passing of the Ordinances the Commission submitted to City Council on July 27, 2010. This schedule pertains to how candidates must report bundled campaign contributions. The Commission then discussed making changes to Schedule V. After some discussion Commission Member Morrison moved that that Schedule V be changed to provide the bundler's name and address in the left column and the individual donor's names and address on the right hand column, and that a reminder to the candidate that they must also disclose this information on the Candidate/Officer Holder form. Commission Member Price seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0.
- d. Agenda item 4(d): Input on Law Department's proposed campaign finance Frequently Asked Questions handout. Assistant City Attorney Romero requested the Commission to discuss the benefits and risks associated with the Law Department providing the public with this information. There was discussion about what the candidates need to know and how to deliver the information, i.e. in written pamphlet, a seminar, or online video and possible funding sources.

## **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Agenda item 5: Future Agenda Items. Approval of the April 13, 2010 and August 24, 2010 Ethics Review Commission meeting minutes. Further discussion of Agenda item 4(d) Law Department proposed answers to campaign finance Frequently Asked Questions.

## **6. ADJOURN**

Commission Member Price moved to adjourn the meeting on or about 7 p.m. Commission Member Sassin seconded. The motion passed 6-0.