

Ethics Review Commission

Public Forum on Lobbying – June 3, 2015

In a well publicized forum there were 8 speakers that offered information on the City of Austin Lobbying Code. The Ethics Commission working group members were: Donna Beth McCormick, chair; Austin Kaplan and Jolene Kiolbassa.

The finished product to submit to Council is far from completed and with new members coming on the Commission, the working group will be expanded and new members added.

Some of the things we heard:

- definition of lobbying is not clear
- reporting is not consistent or enforced
- define funding sources and determine a difference from non-profits and for-profit entities
- proper identification of lobbyist to city staff

Because we knew that new members would be coming on the Commission and we would be meeting within a month, the working group did not have another meeting. However, a lot of information has been passed on by email, much of which you have a copy of today.