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PRESIDENT, COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SISAVANH BAKER
DIRECTOR



COOK COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS
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BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBERS

DR. SUSAN GAFFNEY
VON MATTHEWS, VICE CHAIR
ANTARA NATH RIVERA
HON. MARCUS SALONE
THOMAS SZROMBA, CHAIR

OPEN SESSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
March 10, 2022

OPEN SESSION I:

A. Call to Order: The March 10, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Cook County Board of Ethics (“Board”) was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Susan Gaffney, Hon. Marcus Salone, Antara Nath Rivera, Von Matthews, and Thomas Szromba

Staff Members Present: Director S. Baker, Legal Counsel J. King, Investigator J. Brown, Investigator A. Cahn, Investigator J. Jones, Communications and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf, and Office Manager K. Johns

B. Agenda Approval

A motion to modify the agenda to discuss procedural rule changes in the executive session, was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

C. Statements by the Public

There were no statements by the public.

D. Approval of the January 27, 2022, Regular Meeting Open Minutes

A motion to approve the January 27, 2022, regular meeting open minutes as modified was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

E. Director’s Report

Director Baker reported that although there have been few complaints, there have been several audits, trainings, and contract reviews. Director Baker reported that staff had been approached by the Forest Preserve District along with Commissioner Suffredin of their plans to amend the Forest Preserve’s ethics ordinance to fall in line with the Cook County ethics ordinance. Director Baker reported the ethics ordinance requires all county contractors to complete a familial relationship disclosure form annually by January 2. She stated that she recently became aware that the that the acquisition of the forms had not been enforced and that she plans to enforce them. She mentioned that she would like to have the deadline for this year to be moved to June 1 to inform contractors, but that the original deadline of January 2 would resume in 2023. Communications and Training Coordinator J. Epplin-Zapf discussed that staff has ensured that all required disclosures associated with the December amendments were included on the ethics website. She noted that staff hosted a series of office hours to be available to answer inquiries from elected officials. Finally, she noted that staff recently acquired its training software license to develop online trainings.

At 2:23 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss matters regarding specific investigations, public litigation, and approval of minutes for prior closed sessions, pursuant to sections 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act.

At 3:44 p.m., the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session.

OPEN SESSION II:

A. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the January 27, 2022, Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the amended January 27, 2022, regular meeting closed minutes was made and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

B. Voting Regarding Executive Session Items

A motion to not release 2021 executive session minutes because they contain confidential information about confidential investigations was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

A motion to approve advisory opinions in 2022PA001 and 2022PA002, was made and approved by unanimous voice vote.

A motion to approve notices of determination in 2021I005 and 2020I001 (to be slightly amended), was made and approved by unanimous vote.

C. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:57 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Board Staff.