



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FREDERICK COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION Office of the County Attorney

Stephen K. Hess, Chair

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Present:

Stephen K. Hess (Chair)
Rev. Douglas P. Jones (Vice-Chair)
Deborah L. Lundahl
Michael G. Bunitsky
Mary Beth Kaslick
Stephen Larsen

Absent:

James A. Stanker
Christopher Perry, Alternate Member

Also in Attendance

Andrew Ford, Secretary

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda. Commissioner Hess called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Bunitsky made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Lundahl and approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Bunitsky made a motion to approve the May minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones and approved unanimously.

3. Vote to Conduct an Administrative Function Meeting. Commissioner Bunitsky moved to enter into an administrative function in order to discuss a request for reconsideration of approval for outside employment and a request for an advisory opinion. Commissioner Larsen seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Required information regarding the administrative function meeting - The Commission entered administrative function at 7:25 p.m. Present were Commissioners Hess, Jones, Lundahl, Bunitsky, Kaslick and Larsen. Ms. Pilar Olivo, Mr. Geordie Wilson and Mr. Ford were also present. After hearing from Ms. Olivo, the Commissioners unanimously approved the request for approval of outside employment. After which, Ms. Olivo and Mr. Wilson left the meeting.

The Commission then turned to a review of a request for an advisory opinion from an elected official regarding whether the official could accept an all-expense paid trip to participate in a seminar without violating the Ethics Law prohibition against the acceptance of a gift. After review of the request, a motion was made by Commissioner Larsen to hold that the official's participation in the seminar would not be considered the acceptance of a gift in violation of the Ethics Law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bunitsky, and the motion passed 4 to 2. Mr. Ford was directed to draft a response to the official's request consistent with this determination.

Commissioner Jones moved to leave administrative function. Commissioner Bunitsky seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The Commission resumed the public meeting at 7:44 p.m.

There being no other business before the Commission, Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Bunitsky and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

/s/
Andrew J. Ford
Secretary