

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

MEGAN TOOKER
Executive Director
& Legal Counsel

510 East 12th, Suite 1A
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone 515-281-4028/Fax 515-281-4073
www.iowa.gov/ethics

BOARD MEMBERS:
James Albert, Chair
John Walsh, Vice Chair
Carole Tillotson
Jonathan Roos
Mary Rueter
Elaine Olson

MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2019 at 1PM
Ola Babcock Building, Rm 300
1112 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines IA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albert calls meeting to order at 1:20 pm. Tillotson, Roos, and Rueter appear by telephone. Albert appears in person.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Motion by Rueter, second by Roos, to elect Albert as Chair and Walsh as Vice Chair. All ayes. Motion carries.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Tillotson, second by Roos, to approve minutes of meeting held on November 29, 2018. All ayes. Motion carries.

IV. COMPLAINTS

1. Complaint against Kim Reynolds for Iowa re: request to investigate in-kind flights

Motion by Rueter, second by Roos to dismiss on the ground it does not allege a violation of any law within the Board's jurisdiction. All ayes. Motion carries.

Tooker says this most recent election cycle shattered all sorts of fundraising records and she thinks it would be appropriate for the Board to adopt policies and administrative rules before the next election cycle to provide more guidance for in-kind contributions in general and flights in particular.

2. Complaint against Kim Reynolds for Iowa and Bruce Rastetter re: request to investigate contributions during session

Tooker says the campaign provided copies of two cashier's checks from Russell Taub for campaign contributions. At this point, the complainants have provided no evidence the contributions were from someone else other than attaching a copy of a complaint filed against Mr. Taub with the FEC. No evidence the campaign knowingly accepted money from a PAC during session or knowingly accepted contribution in the name of another. Mr. Rastetter provided a flight to Rhode Island for the Governor to attend a fundraiser hosted by Mr. Taub. Tooker says even if Mr. Taub's contributions were illegal, there is nothing in chapter 68A that says one illegal contribution taints all other contributions at the same event. Thus, the complainants have not provided any evidence to suggest Mr. Rastetter's in-kind flight was illegal. Tooker says she will keep an eye on the FEC complaint. Tooker says the Board has three years from the date of the Taub contribution to pursue an investigation if the Board obtains more information to indicate Mr. Taub's contributions were funded by other sources.

Motion by Rueter, second by Tillotson to dismiss on the grounds that there was no evidence provided that the Taub contributions were from a PAC or contributions in the name of another or that the in-kind flight was unlawful. All ayes. Motion carries.

Approved 1/24/19

Roos says it's important for the Board to heed the FEC complaint and its outcome. Tooker says she will let the Board know how the FEC resolves the complaint.

3. Complaint against Friends of Tod Bowman re: alleged attribution statement violation and alleged use of government moneys for political purposes

Motion by Roos, second by Rueter, to dismiss on ground investigation did not find any evidence to suggest public moneys were used produce video. All ayes. Motion carries.

4. Complaint against Amber Gustafson for Iowa re: alleged misuse of government moneys for political purposes.

Motion by Tillotson, second by Roos to to dismiss on ground investigation did not find any evidence to suggest public moneys were used produce video. All ayes. Motion carries.

V. PROPOSED ADVISORY OPINIONS

1. To all interested persons re: campaign consultant schedule

Motion by Roos, second by Rueter to adopt the Advisory Opinion. All ayes. Motion carries.

2. To all interested persons re: contributions from federal candidates

Motion by Rueter, second by Roos to adopt the Advisory Opinion. All ayes. Motion carries.

VI. FAQ FOR PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Motion by Roos, Second by Rueter to adopt the FAQ's. All ayes. Motion carries.

VII. REQUESTS FOR WAIVER OF CIVIL PENALTIES (RULE 351 IAC 4.60)

- STATE COMMITTEES (Rule 351 IAC 3.59(3))
 1. Libertarian Part of Iowa (recommend reduction to \$100)
 2. Hank Linden for Iowa (recommend denial)
 3. Claire Celsi for Iowa (recommend waiver)
 4. Vote Bloomington (recommend denial)
 5. Latham for Iowa House (recommend denial)
- COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES (Rule 351 IAC 4.59(2))
 1. Audubon County Republican Central Committee (recommend waiver)

Motion by Rueters , second by Tillotson to approve block of waivers, reduction and denial in its entirety. All ayes. Motion carries.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Roos, second by Rueter to adjourn meeting. All ayes. Motion carries. Meeting adjourns at 2:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wood

Nancy Wood, Board Secretary