

MINUTES
DeKalb County Board of Ethics
May 9, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Teri Lee Thompson
Stanley Baum
Bryan Smith
Veronica Higgs Cope
Stephen W. Irving, *Counsel for the Board*

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Teri Lee Thompson, Chair of the Board of Ethics, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:29 p.m. The agenda and the minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2007, were properly adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Advisory Opinion No. 9 (regarding DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader (in the matters of Jacobs Civil and Emory University)) and Advisory Opinion No. 10 (regarding Planning Commissioner Gary Cornell (in the matter of Jordan, Jones and Goulding)) prepared by Stephen Irving, Counsel for the Board of Ethics, was signed by Teri Lee Thompson, Chair, and Veronica Higgs Cope, Secretary.

Stanley Baum addressed the need for public access to information including the members of the Board of Ethics and the posting of meeting times and location. A list of contact information for Board members was disseminated for corrections. Baum reiterated the need to make the public aware of the Board's meetings *via* DeKalb County's website. Baum stated that the Board needs the cooperation of the County to get the Board's information posted on the website. He also noted the fact that even if the public is made aware of the meetings, no one can enter the building after 7:00 p.m. This presents a problem because the Board's meetings are not truly accessible to the public.

Baum also emphasized the need to have members whose terms have expired either replaced or reappointed. He suggested a letter to Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jones with copies to the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Ethics making it clear that a full slate of Board of Ethics members is imperative in order to efficiently and effectively conduct the business of the Board of Ethics. Teri Thompson agreed to draft the letter to the CEO.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board began discussions regarding DeKalb County Commissioner Charles Johnson's request for an advisory opinion. Johnson is the president of a company that wants to become a consulting firm for the Peachtree DeKalb Airport Authority. Baum indicated that he needed

more information in order to formulate an opinion. He requested that the Board have Johnson attend the next regularly scheduled meeting to obtain more information before issuing an advisory opinion.

Steve Irving indicated that he does not believe the complaints and requests for advisory opinions are reaching the Board in a timely manner. ~~Irving commented that a more efficient procedure needs to be put in place to get complaints, etc. to Board members.~~ The issue was deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for August 8, 2007, at 6:45 p.m.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Higgs Cope, Member
DeKalb County Board of Ethics