

City of Spokane
Ethics Commission Meeting
March 23, 2016

Present:

Alice Buckles, Member
Levi Liljenquist, Member
Tyler Wasson, Member
Troy Bruner, Chair
Mike Piccolo, Counsel
Milt Rowland, Independent Counsel
Becky Riedinger, Staff Liaison
Not present: Dennis Cronin and Brian Steverson

FIRST MOTION

Troy moves that the Commission approve the meeting's agenda. Levi seconds that motion and all approve.

SECOND MOTION

Troy moves that Commission approve the Minutes of the 1/27/16 meeting. Levi seconds. All approve.

The interviewee for the Commission is not yet present, so members discuss the upcoming NOW Complaint scheduling. Milt Rowland has been retained as independent counsel to represent the Commission in place of Mr. Piccolo for this particular matter regarding Mayor Condon.

The date appearing available to members is June 29th. We will confirm it later. Milt advised the Commission that we should not let that date go too far out but the Mayor's counsel seems to be trying to accommodate a hearing date so we will try to find a mutually agreeable date.

Troy asks if the report of the independent investigator into the Condon complaint will be made available to the Commission once completed. Mike notes it should be a public record and so he would imagine they will.

Troy states he has no objection to a continuance at this time, but would not like to continue it to any date past June 29th.

GEORGE McGRATH COMPLAINT

Mr. McGrath states that Council President Stuckart has singled him out in a personal vendetta to not allow him to speak at City Council meetings the way want he wants to, because he doesn't say what Mr. Stuckart wants to hear or in the way Mr. Stuckart wants to hear it. Mr. Stuckart has passed rules on speaking, declaring George is responsible for no one being allowed to speak anymore. There have been meetings where the forums aren't filled and there is plenty of time available to speak, but Mr. Stuckart will not allow it. Mr. McGrath states he has three concerns about which he likes to speak:

- 1) The Bridge to "Hookerville". Mr. McGrath says Stuckart and Councilwoman Karen Stratton didn't like that term, but that's too bad. He has the right to say it, but it didn't go over too well with Stuckart.
- 2) He is appalled by the murder of innocent babies at Planned Parenthood. They have aborted a lot of innocent babies. Murderers is what he calls them and they should be defunded. He doesn't believe in it and it's his right to be able to say so.
- 3) Stuckart is now only allowing people to speak one time a month regardless of how many people have signed up. Open forum is designed for 10 people, at three minutes each only, stating he is unfairly limiting my speech.

Mr. McGrath further states Mr. Stuckart should be grateful he is not suing him for infringing upon his rights. He states, "ask around, and they will tell you, Ben Stuckart did all this to deal with me because he has the power and ability to impede my free speech. He adds, free speech is what started our country, but it's hard to find it in Spokane, noting, Mike Fagan in probably the only member with good sense on the council. That is why he feels it is ludicrous that he only be allowed to speak one time a month for only three minutes. He says Ben Stuckart has been dissatisfied with his appearances for years and the bobble-headed dolls follow him along noting "they have a difficult time thinking for themselves it appears."

Troy opens that matter for review asking the members if they believe the Commission has jurisdiction over Mr. McGrath's complaint and all members agree they do. Troy asks if true, the action would be a violation, and the members all agree, if true, it would be a violation.

Levi states he doesn't see an act that violates the code.

George McGrath states that the idea a citizen is limited to three minutes curtails his free speech.

Mike Piccolo states there are rules of procedures implemented for everyone.

THIRD MOTION - Motion to Dismiss McGrath Complaint.

Troy states he is not inclined to proceed with this Complaint.

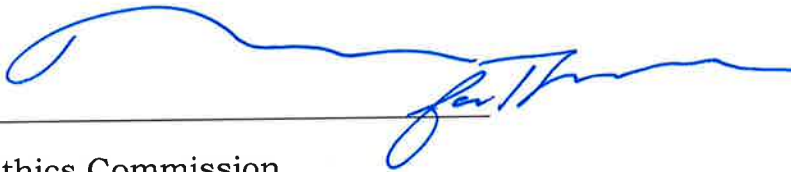
Levi agrees and moves to dismiss this complaint, noting the facts are not sufficient to substantiate Mr. McGrath's complaint.

All approve. McGrath Complaint Dismissed

Applicant Amenia Fields is now present. She states she wants to be involved and saw the opening on the Commission. She is an immigration attorney and a 10 year veteran. Troy advises her that the Commission will be in touch in the future regarding her application.

Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and approved this 18th day of May, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "for 11/11/16", written over a horizontal line.

Ethics Commission