



CITY OF BOSTON
Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021, 2:00 PM
Virtual Meeting held remotely via ZOOM
Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair; Vivien Li and City Clerk Maureen Feeney

Others Present: Assistant City Clerk Alex Geourntas, Clerk to the Commission

Call to order at 2:05 PM

Sammy Nabulsi, Chair of the Commission, opened the virtual meeting and welcomed everyone. First order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to change Le to Li on page 2 of the meeting minutes, seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Motion to approve the February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes as amended was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

City Clerk Maureen Feeney also informed the Commission that the 2/19/20 minutes should reflect an update since the next scheduled meeting listed in the minutes did not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. All in favor.

Discussion and Vote on Proposed Lobbying Regulations

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair presented the proposed Lobbying Regulations to the Commission for their consideration and the redlined changes to the regulations were publicly posted along with the meeting agenda.

Vivien Li expressed her appreciation to Sammy Nabulsi for his work in developing and finalizing the

proposed Lobbying Regulations incorporating public comments offered during the Public Hearing that took place on February 10, 2020.

City Clerk Maureen Feeney also thanked Sammy Nabulsi for his commitment and hard work in making these proposed regulations a reality.

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair thanked Commission members for all their support during this process and prior to a vote to approve regulations, several edits needed to be approved by the Commission as follows:

1. Motion to amend definition of Operating Expenses on Page 2 of Regulations was offered by Sammy Nabulsi by adding the following language after costs incurred: by a Client or Lobbying Entity and deleting after facilities, incurred by a client or Lobbying Entity. Motion was seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.
2. Motion to amend Section 5- (1) Not for Profit Waiver under (a) was offered by Sammy Nabulsi to change “its” to “their” in the first sentence of that section. Motion was seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.
3. Motion to amend Section 7-Advisory Opinions on Page 7 was offered by Sammy Nabulsi to add after the word proceedings: unless subsequently rescinded by a majority vote of a quorum of the Commission members. Motion was seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, asked if there were any questions from the other Zoom attendees listening to the discussion. There were no questions. A compliment was offered by Kathy Bell for Kellie Donovan and Paul Flaherty, staff in the City Clerk’s Office, as to their professionalism and assistance with Lobbying inquiries.

Motion to approve Proposed Lobbying Regulations as amended for Final Publication and Posting was offered by Sammy Nabulsi and seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Lobbying Report from City Clerk Maureen Feeney

A special “thank you” to Commission Chair for all his efforts and time to create and finalize Lobbying Regulations and Statement of Small Business Impact.

Compliance with the Lobbying requirements has been challenging for the City Clerk’s Office due to the pandemic. Several IT issues have created difficulties with registration and filing of quarterly reports and staff responsible for Lobbying has been working with IT to address issues as they develop. Staff continues to respond to inquiries from Lobbyists, Lobbying Entities and Clients by phone and email. As well, a review will take place of lobbying information on the city’s website to improve text and delineate sections. Suggestion was made to include a “Common Issues” Bulletin as an informational resource.

Election of Commission Chairperson

Motion to nominate Sammy Nabulsi as Chair of the Commission was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Maureen Feeney. Sammy Nabulsi accepts nomination. All in favor.

Discussion on Monthly Commission Meetings

Commission members discussed the possibility of a schedule of upcoming monthly meetings set on the third Thursday of each month at 2 PM for at least February, March, April and May 2021.

Sammy Nabulsi will contact Commission members to review availability and finalize dates and time of future Commission meetings.

Motion to Adjourn Commission Meeting was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Zoom Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 P.M.

Minutes approved by the Commission at its meeting of February 25, 2021