

**Regular Meeting of the Cincinnati Elections Commission
Minutes of June 10, 2021**

CEC members present: Seth Walsh, Constance Hill, and Raynal Moore

City representatives present: Christine Zimmer, Law; Linda Smith, Law; and Jill Robb, Law

Old Business:

1. Approval of April 8, 2021 meeting minutes.

Ms. Hill moved for approval of the April 8, 2021 minutes, and Ms. Moore seconded. A vote was taken, and the April 8, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

1. Discussion of Mayoral candidate Mann's late report filing.

Ms. Zimmer led a discussion regarding the filing requirements following the conclusion of the primary election for Mayor, explaining that the two successful candidates must submit a report identifying contributions received through the date of the primary election because the contribution limits re-set after the primary election. Ms. Zimmer further explained that Article XIII Section 2 of the City Charter specifies what reports are required to be filed and under these rules, Mr. Mann's campaign filing was submitted 2 days after the deadline. Article XIII Section 2(d) specifies that the penalty for failing to file a report is \$200 per day for the mayoral election. Ms. Smith confirmed that the imposition of a fine is within the Cincinnati Election Commission's discretion. Mr. Walsh questioned where the \$200 would be deposited if a fine were imposed and Ms. Zimmer was not completely sure, but thought that it would be deposited into the Commission's fund.

Mr. Walsh moved to have a hearing to inform the campaign of the Commission's intent to consider imposing a fine and Ms. Moore seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed.

2. Discussion to have the July meeting in June.

Mr. Walsh suggested moving the July meeting to June due to the July 4th holiday and questioned if that would be permitted. Ms. Zimmer explained that notice must be given to the public at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, but CitiCable will need to be contacted to confirm its availability to broadcast the meeting. If CitiCable is unavailable, the Commission will have to broadcast the meeting in another form. Ms. Zimmer will look at dates for June and let the CEC know what is available.

3. Discussion of date next filing is due.

Ms. Smith stated that the next filing is due July 31, 2021. Ms. Zimmer explained that the reporting period runs through June 30, 2021, but the report is not due until July 31, 2021. This filing applies to all the council candidates as well as the mayoral candidates.

4. Update on CEC Finance Portal.

Ms. Zimmer explained that the ETS department has been working with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics to see if the data portal can also be used for additional disclosures beyond campaign finance disclosures. ETS has a final version of the Excel spreadsheet available for the candidates to use that can be easily imported. Ms. Smith explained that ETS is testing the upload system but still has a few kinks to work out.

5. Emails received in the CEC mailbox.

Ms. Zimmer explained that if there is a factual response issued by the Law Department to a question emailed to the CEC, the Law Department will send a copy of the Law Department's response to Mr. Walsh and the Commission for informational purposes. If the response to an email involves interpretation of the Charter or rules, the response will be brought to the CEC for review.

6. Designation of Treasurer forms sent to the Board of Elections.

The CEC has received 18 Designation of Treasurer forms so far. Ms. Zimmer explained that these are not automatically forwarded to the CEC and that the Law Department must request them from the Hamilton County Board of Elections. Mr. Walsh questioned if the CEC could add a rule requiring candidates to file with the CEC as well. Ms. Zimmer explained that the rule could be drafted and brought to the board.

7. Discussion of remote meeting in July.

The changes to the Open Meetings Act allowing remote meetings expire on July 1, 2021. There have been discussions and requests to look at whether the City's boards and commissions could continue to meet remotely if City Council passed an ordinance.

Next meeting:

TBD.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.