A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held on June 17, 2020 via Webex.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak
Joseph Markwordt
Jonathan Kromm (arrived at 6:19pm)
Jean Xu

Staff Members Present: Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Executive Secretary to the Commission
Rhonda Karafa, Paralegal, Howard County Office of Law

Chairperson Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:08 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Agenda: The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed Agenda upon a motion by Drielak seconded by Markwordt, passed unanimously (Kromm was not present to vote).

2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on February 10, 2020 and upon a motion by Drielak, seconded by Markwordt, the minutes passed unanimously (Xu did not vote).

3. The Commission discussed possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Howard County Ethics Commission. Attorney Perry circulated a redline of the Commission’s comments with respect to the Rules and discussion on the proposals will be at the next scheduled meeting.

4. The Commission discussed updated system regarding making Advisory Opinions available.

5. The Commission discussed updating the affidavits for the comprehensive zoning process pursuant to State law. Attorney Perry circulated the updated code provisions and redlined affidavits to comply with same. The Commission reviewed and approved the revised Affidavits and upon motion by Drielak, seconded by Markwordt, the revised Affidavits passed unanimously. The Commission further instructed Attorney Perry to forward to counsel for the Department of Planning and Zoning.
6. The Commission discussed scheduling the next meeting and instructed Attorney Perry to notify the Commission when next meeting is required and scheduling would be considered then.

7. Motion by Markwordt to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Xu and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: June 17, 2020

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:53 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice, on updates regarding Inquiry 2019-03, and legal issue raised regarding lobbyist registrations, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from February 10, 2020 meeting.

Authority to Close: (1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; (2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; (3) To comply with the Commission’s Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, “the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request;” and (4) §22.203(n)(9) (i) After a complaint is filed and until a final finding of a violation by the Commission, all actions regarding a complaint are confidential.”

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinion 2019-03: The Commission dismissed status of Inquiry 2019-03; discussed legal issues raised regarding lobbyist registrations in certain circumstances; discussed Code with respect to same.

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Paralegal Karafa; Members: Fuller, Drielak, Kromm, Markwordt and Xu.

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel.

Upon motion by Xu, and seconded by Marquardt, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Closed Meeting and re-open the Open Meeting. The open meeting was then called to order by Fuller and re-opened.
8. Upon motion by Xu and seconded by Markwordt, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Kristen Bowen Perry
Executive Secretary
Date Approved: ______________