

City of Sandy Springs Board of Ethics Meeting was on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Raquel D. González, City Clerk and Nathifa Cunningham, Assistant City Clerk presiding.

### **I. Call to Order**

Assistant City Clerk Nathifa Cunningham called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:11 a.m.

### **II. Roll Call**

**Members present:** Member Joshua Heller; Member Heather Craytor; Member Evan Barron; Member Bethany Diamond; and Member Bill Murray

**Staff present:** City Clerk Raquel González, and Assistant City Clerk Nathifa Cunningham

### **III. Ruling on a Quorum**

Assistant City Clerk Nathifa Cunningham confirmed there was a quorum.

### **IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion and Vote.** Member Evan Barron made a motion, seconded by Member Heather Craytor, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Evan Barron said we discussed getting together with various departments at the October 9, 2024 Board of Ethics Meeting. Is there still an initiative to do so this year?

City Clerk Raquel González said there are some initiatives as the City of Sandy Springs is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year, but maybe not specifically with the various boards. With the planned celebration, Mayor Rusty Paul provided feedback that there would be an opportunity to get big groups together, but no specific information is available to share today.

Member Bethany Diamond said it is valid to ask this question and reference the discussion from the October 9 meeting, but that is Old Business, and we must go to New Business first.

### **V. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**BOE2025-01** October 9, 2024 Board of Ethics Meeting Minutes

**Motion and Vote.** Member Bill Murray made a motion, seconded by Member Heather Craytor, to approve the October 9, 2024 Board of Ethics meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VI. New Business**

**BOE2025-03** Election of 2025 Board of Ethics Officers: Chair and Vice-Chair  
*The board shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson of the board and one of its members to serve as vice-chairperson of the board. Alternates may not hold any office on the board.*

**Motion and Vote.** Member **Bill Murray** made a motion, seconded by Member **Joshua Heller**, to approve Member **Bethany Diamond** as Chair of the Board of Ethics and Member **Evan Barron** as Vice Chair of the Board of Ethics. The motion carried unanimously.

**BOE2025-02** 2025 Board of Ethics Meeting Schedule

**Motion and second.** Member **Bill Murray** made a motion, seconded by Member **Evan Barron**, to approve the 2025 Board of Ethics meeting schedule.

Member **Joshua Heller** said the July 9, 2025 date is an issue for me and I will not be available.

Member **Evan Barron** asked is that Monday?

City Clerk **Raquel González** said each meeting day is a Wednesday.

Member **Joshua Heller** said also the October 8, 2025 meeting day is a Jewish holiday. The way it works, is that all holidays are the same day of the week, for three out of four weeks.

Member **Bethany Diamond** asked which Jewish holiday is it?

Member **Joshua Heller** said it is Sukkot, the Festival of Tabernacles. The issue is October 15, is also a holiday, and October 1, is eight hours before the start of Yom Kippur. Since October 1, 8, and 15 are all holidays, can the meeting be moved to October 22, unless there is organizational reason?

City Clerk **Raquel González** said there is no organizational reason.

Member **Bethany Diamond** said then this date will be changed to October 22. The meeting dates planned are April 9, July 9, and October 22.

Member **Joshua Heller** said I am not available on July 9, but it is personal, not religious.

Member **Bethany Diamond** said July 9 is in the summer before July 4. Hopefully any planned vacations will not interfere.

City Clerk **Raquel González** said the Clerk's Office tries to confirm a quorum a week before the meeting, but we can reach out two weeks before for the July 9 meeting. That way we will know who can attend, and cancel if there is no quorum.

Member **Bethany Diamond** said anytime in the summer is going to be problem for most people, and maybe July 16 is a better day for everyone.

Member **Bill Murray** said I will be unavailable on July 16, but it is personal, not religious.

Member **Bethany Diamond** asked will it work for everyone to keep it on July 9?

Member **Evan Barron** said that works.

Member **Joshua Heller** said I have no objection.

Member **Bethany Diamond** said then the meeting dates are April 9, July 9, and October 22.

**Vote on the motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## VII. Old Business

**Member Bethany Diamond** said this where **Member Evan Barron's** question about the previous meeting should be asked, and discuss **Mayor Rusty Paul's** plans for the City's twentieth anniversary.

**City Clerk Raquel González** said the City is planning some events for the twentieth year celebration. **Mayor Rusty Paul** did not mention anything specific about the boards getting together, but there may be some opportunities for everybody to get together.

**Member Bethany Diamond** asked if we feel it is important, is there an initiative we can start to bring the boards together, or does it have to come from **Mayor Rusty Paul**?

**City Clerk Raquel González** said this is something that should be coordinated with the City. This is because of, for example, quorums of bodies getting together and some public meetings needing to be called.

**Member Bethany Diamond** said we can push forward, but it depends on how important it is.

**Member Evan Barron** said if it is on the table some time this year, hopefully it comes to fruition.

Following the discussion of Old Business, **Member Evan Barron** congratulated **Member Heather Craytor** on her formal membership with the Board of Ethics. Will there be an alternate member for holidays, vacations, and to help meet quorum?

**City Clerk Raquel González** said no specific information about an alternate member is available as yet. **Mayor Rusty Paul** is working to fill several seats on several boards. If you have any suggestions please reach out to him. He would be happy to hear from you.

**Member Heather Craytor** asked do nominee recommendations need to be homeowners in the City, or just residents?

**City Clerk Raquel González** said they need to be a resident of the City to serve on the board.

## VIII. Adjournment

**Motion and vote.** A motion was made by **Member Bill Murray**, seconded by **Member Heather Craytor** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Approved: April 9, 2025

  
Bethany Diamond, Chair

  
Raquel D. González, Recording Secretary