

MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board

Regular Meeting

February 11, 2008

Present: Caleb Kleppner (chair), Dennis Curtis, Jennifer James, Lori Kozlowski, Maria Lamberto, Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one reporter from the New Haven Register Carl Goldfield, President of the Board of Alderman

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 5:05

Approval of January 17 minutes

Public comments were requested, but none were offered

Discussion of report to State Election Enforcement Commission

Still waiting to discuss certain matters with the campaigns

The report will include a chronology, details of success and failures of the program and possible changes for the future

Rob is still waiting to hear more details about what should be included in the report

There doesn't seem to be a deadline

If Rob doesn't hear details about what they want, we will simply send in the report that we are sending to the Board of Aldermen

Reconsideration of request for appropriations

With the amount of money currently in the Democracy Fund, we had thought not to request more funds. However, it was suggested by the BoA that we should request money to help establish an endowment. The eventual goal is to have this fund be self sustained
Carl Goldfield -- thinks that the intent was to keep funding to build an endowment so the fund is covered if there is a hotly contested race

The board should also be fundraising trying to build the fund further. Could it be a charitable donation as other city functions would be?

Denny moves that we ask for \$200,000

- o Amended to request \$100,000
- o Unanimous.

Discussion of other post-election Democracy Fund activities and obligations

None

Discussion of qualifying thresholds and requirements, including ballot access

Qualifying thresholds:

- o Are the number or dollar amount of contributions too high?
- o Philosophic discussion -- are the qualifying contributions a way of determining viability or is this whole thing about giving people a voice
- o What kind of grant do you get if you qualify?

- What if it was 200 \$5+ contribution?
 - Carl Goldfied would need to think about those numbers...
 - Seems to be general consensus that \$25 is to high... the 200 might be OK...

Next meeting Feb 25th

Meeting Adjourned