

MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board

Special Meeting

March 17, 2008

Present: Caleb Kleppner (chair), Kevin Diadamo, Jennifer James, Stephen Kovel, Lori Kozlowski, Maria Lamberto, Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one reporter from the New Haven Register, Darnell Goldson, declared mayor candidate for 2009.

Meeting called to order

Public comments were requested

Discussion of reports to State Election Enforcement Commission

Maria had a concern about the language regarding Carl Adamo -- it refers to him as administering the fund -- is that the proper language

- o The board settled on facilitator

Stephen had some concerns about the structure -- should there be an executive summary at the beginning?

- o Consensus that it would be a great idea

Stephen also suggested a different font

Concern about the way we refer to the "Register"

None of the policy changes were concrete and a follow up will be sent later when things are more finalized

Discussion of Non-Participating Candidate Contribution Limits, Disclosure of Contributions by city Contractors, Election Cycle Division, Write in Candidates, Matching Funds for Unopposed Candidates, post Election Expenditures, Qualified Campaign

General consensus on the board that lowering the contribution limit for all candidates to \$300 is a powerful statement and an important step

A big problem is outside of the city contribution to non participating candidates

Everyone agrees that we should have a separate accountant from which we can draw money and collect interest.

Pg 5 of the thing -- disclosure of donations from city contractors -- is \$25 too low of an amount

Public Comment from Darnell Goldson -- can we make sure we have copies of all documents being discussed available to the public

He agrees with the \$25 limit

Write-in candidate

- o Should they qualify?

- How do they get on the ballot
 - Why would someone be a write in instead of petitioning to appear on the general ballot
- Now they are eligible for matching funds but not for a grant since the name does not appear on the ballot

Un opposed candidates

- Should you receive matching fund if you're unopposed?
 - Should you get taxpayer money go to an unopposed race?

Election Cycle Division

- Should we continue with the ruling we made in August?
- Should there be separate primary and general election time periods and funds?
 - Based on a time period? Money spent?
- Clarify that it is \$300 for the primary and \$300 for the general or should it be \$300 total?
- Everyone should think about it further

Out of town limitations

- Under the current limitations, you can accept up to \$300 from out of town
- Seems fine

Discussion of how to proceed with recommendations regarding the Democracy Fund Ordinance

Caleb will synthesize the information into big picture recommendations and then go down into finer details and more specific recommendations

- Ex. Reduce over all spending limits as a big picture area
 - Smaller is to create a specific recommendation
- Eventually we will also discuss how to implement all of these ideas

Discussion of other post-election Democracy Fund activities and obligations

None

Adjournment