

Unapproved Minutes
New Haven Democracy Fund Board
August 23rd 2007

Present: Maria Lamberto (chair), Jennifer James, Caleb Kleppner, Stephen H. Kovel, Lori Kozlowski; Kevin Diadamo (not yet approved by Board of Aldermen), Robert Wechsler (Administrator); additionally, 2 members of the press and one member of the DeStefano campaign.

Called to order at 5:02 PM

Discussion of how the meeting will operate:

- For Maria's hearing impairment it is better if she calls on us to speak so she knows who is speaking and hear well
- Quorum: can we start meeting/ have discussions without a quorum?
 - A quorum was determined to be 4 people

** There was an op-ed in the register on 5/22/07 calling for the Mayor to return the grant

Approval of minutes:

- Approved unanimously

3. No public comments

4. Discussion of Contributions to and expenditures by candidates for a primary election when it has been determined that there will not be a primary election.

- For the Newton campaign we have the list of contributors but not the copies of the checks.
- We have the option of counting what we have received towards the primary election or holding it over for the general.
- Discussion on what it means to be a candidate – how does Newton fit into this in a primary or a general election scenario.
- We had previously established that this election was contested and given money to one candidate.
- What made it a contested election:
 - Two candidates raising or spending more than \$5,000
 - But we shouldn't have given the grant at that time – it should have been when both candidates were on the ballot.
- If we roll over to a general, people who gave to the DeStefano “primary” at the maximum amount can't give any more in the “general”

Caleb moves:

- that the Board find that the Newton campaign committee cannot be qualified for or receive matching funds for the primary election since there will be no such election, and

that all contributions given to it and all expenditures made by it up to this point be rolled over into the general election campaign.

- In favor – 2, against – 3

Maria moves:

- Based on the information we have now, as soon as Newton provides the necessary information and paperwork, we provide him matching funds based on the fact that he was trying to get the Democratic Nomination – he was a candidate in the primary and is qualified for matching funds.
 - No vote was taken
- To consider the money we've already given the Mayor just a credit – we will subtract matching funds
 - Discussion:
 - Jen prefers keeping it as a general election and then maybe having to ask for it back or just asking for it back now.
 - People don't like making assumptions –
 - Withdraws her motion
 -

6. Discussion of public Financing Grant given to John DeStefano

Lori Moves:

- that the Board find the public financing grant to the DeStefano campaign committee was given prematurely, according to the Democracy Fund Ordinance, and that it ask the Administrator to request the return of the \$15,000 grant to the Democracy Fund.
 - For: 4
 - Against: 0Passed

Jen Moves:

- Since there was not a primary election everything should roll over to the general election (same as Caleb's original but with new understanding)
 - For: 2
 - Against : 2(Caleb had left)

Has to be tabled

Steve Moves:

- To accept the candidacy of Richter Elser
 - For: 4
 - Against: 0

Steve Moves:

The first day of general election will be August 13th since that was the date it was determined that the primary was not to be contested

- - For: 3
 - Against: 0
 - Abstaining: 1

A member of the DeStefano campaign asked procedural questions about what to do now in terms of what to count for fundraising and what forms need to be filled out – she and Robert will speak again later in the week.

Meeting Adjourned