



AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 15-04-A
APPROVED JANUARY 15, 2015

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING
OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014**

PRESENT:

Lee E. Goodman, Chairman, presiding

Ann M. Ravel, Vice Chair

Caroline C. Hunter, Commissioner

Matthew S. Petersen, Commissioner

Steven T. Walther, Commissioner

Ellen L. Weintraub, Commissioner

Alec Palmer, Staff Director

Lisa J. Stevenson, Deputy General Counsel - Law

Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk

Chairman Lee E. Goodman called the Federal Election Commission to order in an open meeting at 10:11 A.M. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 with a quorum present.

Chairman Goodman recognized Vice Chair Ravel who

MOVED to suspend the rules on the timely submission of agenda documents in order to consider the late submission of Agenda Document No. 14-65-A, 2015 meeting dates.

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Hunter for a point of personal privilege. Commissioner Hunter recognized Ms. Alyssa Wootton, her legal intern, thanked her for her assistance, and noted that Ms. Wootton, a graduate of Georgetown University Law School, was recently admitted to the Virginia bar and is leaving to work for a newly elected member of Congress.

I. 2015 MEETING DATES

**Memorandum from Vice Chair Ann M. Ravel
dated December 10, 2014**

**Agenda Document No. 14-65-A
(Submitted Late)**

Chairman Goodman recognized Vice Chair Ravel who presented the meeting dates for the first half of 2015.

Chairman Goodman recognized Vice Chair Ravel who

**MOVED to approve Agenda Document No. 14-65-A,
2015 meeting dates.**

The motion carried by a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Chair

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Hunter who

**MOVED to elect Vice Chair Ann M. Ravel to serve as
Chairman of the Federal Election Commission for 2015.**

Discussion followed.

The motion carried by a vote of 5-0 with Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision. Commissioner Ravel did not vote.

B. Vice Chairman

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Walther who

**MOVED to elect Commissioner Matthew S. Petersen
to serve as Vice Chairman of the Federal Election
Commission for 2015.**

Discussion followed.

**The motion carried by a vote of 5-0 with Commissioners Goodman,
Hunter, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voting affirmatively for the decision.
Commissioner Petersen did not vote.**

**In recognition of her election as the 2015 Chair, Chairman Goodman
presented Vice Chair Ravel with a gift which he explained he received
from a visitor from Benin who came to the Commission earlier this year.
The Chairman, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Commission, was
told by the gentleman that in Benin the statute is a common icon
representing someone trying to carry the weight of the world on his/her
shoulders. Chairman Goodman thought it appropriate to pass this gift on
to Vice Chair Ravel to serve as her “friend” during her term as Chair in
2015, as it did for him during his tenure.**

**Vice Chair Ravel expressed her appreciation to the Chairman for his
generosity.**

III. REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN GOODMAN

Chairman Goodman stated that it has been a privilege and honor to serve as Chairman in 2014, which proved to be a constructive and productive year for the Commission. He explained that credit for these achievements is shared Commission-wide and summarized them as follows:

- The Commission updated its regulations by eliminating 5 pages of unconstitutional regulations in 2 rulemakings, for which he credited Commissioners Hunter and Ravel and their staffs, Mr. Adav Noti and the Policy Division team, and Ms. Lisa Stevenson and the General Counsel staff for moving the Commission forward.**
- The Commission was very responsive to AO requestors in an election year.**
- The Commission embraced new technologies such as bitcoins and online donation services that facilitate citizen participation in elections.**
- The Commission helped political parties fund their conventions, freeing them from some unnecessary recordkeeping burdens, and it held a forum to hear and discuss how the Commission can make parties more effective political and democratic institutions.**

- **The Commission engaged in healthy, civil, constructive, and fair debate on a range of important issues such as definition of political committee, significance of 3 to 3 votes, due process and fairness procedures in the enforcement process, cell phone banner ads, press rights, and the 2006 internet rule and regulation of YouTube videos.**
- **The Commission formed a majority on 93% of all votes cast and 86% of substantive votes, a good record for a bipartisan agency that must daily delicately balance First Amendment rights with regulation of the political process.**
- **The Commission strengthened the administrative side of the agency, largely through consensus. Most of the IT challenges were resolved, thanks principally to Commissioner Walther and CIO Alec Palmer and his team. IT expenditures were increased by almost \$2 million; nearly \$650,000 was targeted for IT security enhancements. Other updates included newer and faster servers, new data warehouse, new enterprise search functionality, new online registration for new political committees, new security software, services and redundant broadband connections, firewalls, and server configurations. IT projects under development include a mobile application (a priority of Commissioner Walther); a website redesign to make campaign**

finance data more transparent, accessible, and searchable due in large part to Vice Chair Ravel's work; deployment of a software solution with a new vendor to automate processing of Senate paper filings for which Vice Chair Ravel has been instrumental; and a NIST study undertaken by Mr. Palmer to assess additional security needs.

- The Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Judy Berning, obtained a clean financial audit. Much credit goes to her for this accomplishment.**
- The Enforcement Division cleared a backlog of matters, and Chairman Goodman thanked Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Dan Petalas and his team for its efforts to get those matters before the Commission for review.**
- The Litigation Division has been very busy making filing deadlines and keeping up with a heavy litigation docket.**
- The Administrative Law Team has worked diligently to produce hundreds of thousands of pages in response to requests from Congressional committees and to keep up with FOIA requests.**
- Ms. Bianca Gomez, Deputy Ethics Official, has been responsive and helpful in keeping the Commission ethical and compliant.**
- The Reports Analysis Division began to rebuild by hiring seven new analysts; reviewed over 122,000 filings and 16 million pages; sent over 10,000 letters; responded to 11,000 phone inquiries; and issued**

a customer service survey which garnered positive ratings. The Chairman thanked Ms. Debbie Chacona and Ms. Patricia Orrock for their accomplishments.

- The Information Division conducted a number of helpful and effective educational seminars and began new webinar- and internet-based training to expand the reach of training services. The Chairman said that it was his pleasure to participate in several of these seminars.**
- At his first meeting in 2014, Chairman Goodman signed the policy on Non-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity and stated that he was proud to report that the Commission experienced no employment discrimination complaints this year.**
- Chairman Goodman expressed his pleasure in meeting the staff and learning what they do, and noted that they are remarkable people, as is their commitment to the Commission. He recognized the upcoming retirements of Ms. Rosa Jones, Ms. Edna Ford-Roberts, Ms. Philomena Brooks, and Mr. Alex Boniewicz; and thanked Mr. Kevin Salley and Mr. Roger Cotton for trying to make the Commission a better place to work.**

- **Finally, Chairman Goodman congratulated his fellow Commissioners and many accomplished and committed professionals who have worked very hard to make this a constructive year.**

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Petersen who commended Chairman Goodman for his zeal, alacrity, and hard work in leading the Commission. Commissioner Petersen thanked him for his remarkably good job and noted that he greatly appreciated everything Chairman Goodman accomplished. Commissioner Petersen said that he is looking forward to working with Vice Chair Ravel next year and helping her carry on the Commission's important work.

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Walther who thanked him for taking charge so quickly. Commissioner Walther said that it has been a pleasure to work with him, as he is always open to new ideas, accommodating, and very thoughtful in his approach toward how the Commission gets things done.

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Weintraub who congratulated Vice Chair Ravel and Commissioner Petersen and expressed her confidence in them. She also thanked Chairman Goodman. She noted

that though they continue to have many spirited disagreements, she appreciated Chairman Goodman's efforts to "take the temperature down" when he arrived. She acknowledged his genuine concern for staff morale and their good work.

Chairman Goodman recognized Commissioner Hunter who thanked him for his hard work, excellent leadership, and dogged determination to run down certain issues. She appreciated his willingness to always discuss issues and to honor Commissioners' requests to place cases on agendas.

Chairman Goodman recognized Vice Chair Ravel who stated that she looks forward to working with Commissioner Petersen next year. While they may have disagreed in the past, she emphasized that they always managed to work things out. She thanked Chairman Goodman for his impressive list of accomplishments; the help he provided her, Commissioner Hunter, and their staffs on completing the Citizens United project; and a successful year. She said that the qualities that her colleagues mentioned are true: Chairman Goodman is dogged about trying to get things done, and he cares deeply for the agency and staff.

IV. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

**There being no further business to come before the Commission,
the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.**

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee E. Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

**Lee E. Goodman
Chairman of the Commission (2014)**

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Woodhead Werth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

**Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission**