

Conflict of Interest Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect Southeast Como Improvement Association (“the Organization”) during times when it considers entering into transactions that might benefit the private interest of an Officer or Director or that might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to the Organization.

II. Interested Person

Any director, officer, employee, or member of a committee with board-delegated powers, who has either a) a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below (“Financial Interest”); or b) a fiduciary responsibility to another organization, as defined below (“Fiduciary Responsibility”), is an Interested Person.

III. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, family, or domestic partnership, has any of the following:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity which Southeast Como Improvement Association has or will enter into a transaction or arrangement with.
- b. A compensation arrangement with Southeast Como Improvement Association or with any entity or individual that Southeast Como Improvement Association has or will enter into a transaction or arrangement with.
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual that Southeast Como Improvement Association is negotiating a transaction or arrangement with.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature. Gifts and favors include any gratuitous service, loan, discount, money or article of value, but does not include loans from financial institutional on customary terms, articles of nominal value ordinarily used for sales promotion, ordinary “business lunches” or reasonable entertainment consistent with local social or business customs.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest *may* have a conflict of interest, if the governing board or committee decides that a conflict exists.

IV. Fiduciary Responsibility

A person has a Fiduciary Responsibility towards an organization or individual if they:

- a. Hold a position of special confidence towards such organization or individual;
- b. Hold property in trust for another person with an ownership interest, or who receives and controls the income of another; or
- c. Have a duty of loyalty or duty of care to an organization (by virtue of serving as an officer or director of the organization or another position with similar responsibilities). A duty of loyalty requires the person to avoid taking actions (or helping others take actions) that are adverse to the organization and to avoid competing with the organization. A duty of care requires the person to discharge his or her duties in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the organization.

A Fiduciary Responsibility is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a Fiduciary Responsibility *may* have a conflict of interest only if the board or appropriate committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

V. Member of the Family Defined

A member of the family of a Director or Officer is a spouse; domestic partner; parent; child; spouse of a child; brother; sister; or, spouse of a brother or sister.

VI. Procedures

A. Discharge of Duties

It is the responsibility of each director, officer, employee, and member of a committee with board-delegated powers to discharge their duties as a director, officer, employee, or committee member in good faith, in a manner the person reasonably believes to be in the best interests of Southeast Como Improvement Association, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

B. Duty to Disclose

An interested person must disclose the existence of their financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Directors or members of committees with Board-delegated powers who will consider the proposed transaction or arrangement.

C. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

The interested person must leave the meeting after disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, including any necessary discussion with the interested person for fact finding. The interested person must not return to the meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted on. The remaining

members at the meeting will decide if a conflict of interest exists.

D. Addressing a Conflict of Interest

1. An Interested Person may make a factual presentation at the board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, they must leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest. An Interested Person must not actively participate in the discussion of, or vote on, the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest, either formally at a board or committee meeting or informally through contact with individual board or committee members. In addition, the Interested Person will not be counted in determining whether a quorum is present for the board or committee meeting at which the transaction or arrangement that results in the conflict of interest is to be voted upon.
2. The chairperson of the meeting body will, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or task force to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
3. After exercising due diligence, the meeting members will determine whether the Organization can, with reasonable efforts, obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
4. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement without a conflict of interest is not reasonably possible, then the board or committee will determine by a majority vote of the disinterested Directors whether the transaction or arrangement is a) in Southeast Como Improvement Association's best interest, b) for the Organization's own benefit, and c) whether it is fair and reasonable. Using that determination as a guide, the board or committee will then make a decision to enter into the transaction or arrangement or not.

VII. Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy

If the Board or committee has reasonable cause to believe an interested person failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, then it will inform the interested person of the basis for their belief and afford them an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

If, after hearing the interested person's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board or committee determines the interested person has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it will take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

VIII. Records of Proceedings

The minutes of all actions taken on such matters will clearly reflect the following:

- Names of the person(s) with a financial interest related to an actual or possible conflict
- Description of the financial interest
- Description of any action(s) taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present
- Governing body's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed
- Names of the persons present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction
- Summary of the discussion, including any discussed alternatives to the proposed transaction
- A record of any votes taken

IX. Compensation Committee Conflicts

A Director, Officer, or voting member of any committee or task force with Board delegated powers who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services may not vote on issues relating to their own compensation.

X. Annual Statements

Each Director, Officer, and voting member of a committee or task force with Board delegated powers will annually sign a statement which affirms the person:

- Received a copy of the policy
- Read and understands the policy
- Agrees to comply with the policy
- Requires that they disclose any Financial Interest of Fiduciary Responsibility to another person or entity that could potentially form a conflict with Southeast Como Improvement Association in the upcoming year.
- Acknowledges that Southeast Como Improvement Association is a charitable organization, and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

XI. Periodic Reviews

Periodic reviews will be conducted to ensure that Southeast Como Improvement Association operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax. The periodic reviews will, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable and are the result of arm's-length bargaining.


- b. Whether any grants are made to disqualified persons, or otherwise result in an excess benefit transaction.
- c. Whether arrangements with other organizations 1) comply with Southeast Como Improvement Association's written policies, 2) are properly recorded, 3) reflect reasonable payments for goods and services, if any; and 4) further Southeast Como Improvement Association's charitable purposes and do not result in inurement or impermissible private benefit.

Southeast Como Improvement Association may, at its option, use outside experts to conduct periodic reviews. If outside experts are used, their use does not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring that the reviews are conducted.

Approved by the Board of Directors on October 12, 2021.

Approval & Adoption

Approved and adopted by a vote of the Board of Directors at a properly conducted meeting.



Secretary
10/15/21

Date

SECIA Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

The Southeast Como Improvement Association's (SECIA) Conflict of Interest Policy, (updated policy adopted by the Board on October 12, 2021, certified October 15, 2021), requires that each SECIA Board member and SECIA staff member reads said Policy and signs the following acknowledgement (Section X). Please complete the form and return it to SECIA staff, P.O. Box 18460, Minneapolis, MN 55418, office@secomo.org.

I have received a copy of the SECIA Conflict of Interest Policy dated October 15th, 2021. I have read this Policy and agree to abide by its terms.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Date _____