

**SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY
COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020

Pledge and Call to Order

President Klein called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Introductions

In attendance were Commission members Calvin Bellamy, Art Russell, Rev. Jamie Ward, Julie McElmurry, Richard Morrisroe, Dr. Rich Weigel, Dan Klein, Dr. Steve Grandfield, Lynn Volkmann, Bill Kuhn, John Bowker, Merlin Foresman, and Tim Huizenga. Also included was Rose Martrodana, records specialist. Flor Baum took the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Lynn Volkmann; Second: Art Russell; and the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 2020 meeting as presented.

Financial Report

Dan reported that the 2020 unused appropriated balance of \$33,603.67 can be used for the 2020 pledge expenses and any NIRPC bills for the remainder of the year. The unused appropriated balance can also be used for 2021. The cost of training will also come out of the unused appropriated balance first. Expenses under the unassigned fund balance (\$49,924.09) will require an approval by the board of delegates.

Dan reported on the Dues Report. The City of Gary has an outstanding balance. Cythia Pruitt from the City of Gary contacted Calvin Bellamy in regards to the dues. Calvin will follow up with her in one month.

SEAC OLD BUSINESS

Membership Updates

For "At Large" members, the committee agreed to reach out to John Costas, former mayor of Valparaíso. Calvin has reached out to Bernie Doyle who is retiring as Town Manager in Chesterton. The committee considered Pastor Steve DeWitt from Bethel church.

The City of Whiting was added to the section of communities missing delegates. Tim Huizenga will set up an appointment with Wayne Pondinas from Saint John, CC Dan, to present on SEAC membership.

The committee discussed the role of the board of delegates. Julie will look into the Interlocal Agreement and draft the responsibilities of the Board of Delegates for the Executive Committee to review. Julie will also add the list of responsibilities for the Commissioners.

Summit Update

The committee is planning for the 2021 Summit in April. Violet Sistovaris continues to show interest as the speaker for the 2021 Summit. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee discussed an alternate plan for the Summit to be virtual. An alternate plan will be revisited in late November.

Training Committee Update

Jamie Ward updated the committee on the plans that are underway to select a vendor. The subcommittee is reaching out to different vendors, inquiring on products and services that they provide, and the cost. A new vendor will be selected by January 2021.

Communications Committee Update Upon receiving the final lists, Julie McElmurry will be emailing a link with the 2020 pledge to all candidates. The pledges are due by mid October. Julie will locate the marketing material and email it to the committee. The committee will in turn reach out to their municipalities with the marketing materials. A press release is scheduled for October 28th.

Julie is drafting the 2021 meeting press release for the committee's review and approval in November. The annual report will also be drafted in November, and released in January 2021.

SEAC NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Local Ethics Enforcement Mechanism Update

Cal Bellamy discussed the main function of the committee is to train municipal employees. This function has been expanded through the pledge and The Summitt, however further expansion is needed. As private citizens on an exploratory basis, Cal and Julie arranged to talk to the Inspector General of Indiana, Lori Torres and explored how she operates the authority to investigate and refer ethical issues to an enforcement body for state employees. Cal and Julie met with Senator Ed Charbonneau, and will follow up with him in October. The goal is to expand the scope of the inspector general to include local entities, or to provide for the creation of inspector general positions in local entities to explore the avenue of an enforcement mechanism on a state level. Cal is also meeting with the Chicago Ethics Commission to discuss what training and vendors they have in place. More information will be forthcoming.

SEAC - What we need from you

- Please reach out to your municipality contacts and government leaders soon with a SEAC update.
- Submit the county candidate lists if you represent Lake, Porter or LaPorte Counties.

Announcements

The executive committee meeting is scheduled for October 28th. Merlin attended his town board meeting and seized the opportunity to remind them of adhering to the SEAC pledge.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18th. It is to be announced whether the meeting will be held virtually or in person.

Adjournment

Motion: Lynn Volkman; Second: John Bowker; and President Klein adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Flor Maria Baum, Administrative Assistant, NIRPC