

**SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY
COMMISSION**
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 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, Rev. Jamie Ward, Julie McElmurry, Dr. Rich Weigel, Dan Klein, Dr. Steve Grandfield, Lynn Volkmann, John Bowker, Merlin Foresman, Courtney Smith, Tim Huizenga, and Karen Marben. Also included was Janice Malinowski, Mayor Jerome Prince from The City of Gary, and Howard Morgan from Burns Harbor. Flor Baum took the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Lynn Volkmann; Second: Steve Grandfield; and the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 2020 meeting as presented.

Financials

Dan reported that the 2020 Financial Report. The disbursements to date are \$1,726.92, mainly used for NIRPC staff support. The 2020 unused appropriations are \$33,603.67 and can be rolled over for 2021. The remaining balance is \$89,531.25, of which \$49,927.58 remains unassigned (unappropriated). Approval to roll over the balance will be presented in the January Joint Board of Delegates meeting. No further action was needed.

SEAC OLD BUSINESS

Membership Updates

Mayor Prince will assist in providing a prospective commission member and or a prospective delegate to represent The City of Gary. Al Spajer (Whiting) will be replaced by Keith Burke. Al will be concentrating on The Mascot Hall of Fame. Newly elected Mayor Steve Spebar will become the new delegate. Al will send Julie Keith's contact information. Tim Huizenga reached out to Wayne Pondinas regarding the member commissioner vacancy for St. John.

Courtney will reach out to the new town manager in January from Chesterton for prospective members. Dan and Cal, under CDC guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic, are planning to meet with the new mayors from The City of LaPorte and Michigan City.

Dan spoke on ideas for adding "At Large" members. The goal was to invite the Board of Delegates to a physical meeting. Due to the pandemic, that was not able to happen. Dan reached out to Paula Carey from MonoSol and they are interested in expanding community engagement. Julie will reach out to the survey group.

Summit Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee is planning for the 2021 Summit to be virtual. Rich also presented a breakout room via Zoom, which can possibly be used for The Summit, if held virtually. Violet Sistovaris continues to show interest as the speaker for the 2021 Summit. Virtual plans are still tentative and will be revisited in January.

Training Committee Update

Jamie Ward updated the committee on vendor discussions. The subcommittee is reaching out to different vendors, inquiring on products and services that they provide, and the cost. It has been difficult to get responses though. Cal received brochures from the Chicago Network and will forward them to Jamie.

Mayor Prince has a contact with US Steel (USS) Operations and will reach out to them for assistance to get in contact with their Ethics program for resources and/or vendor information. Mayor Prince will place USS in contact with Jamie.

In-person and virtual scenarios for employee and frontline training was discussed. Additional ideas can be sent to the committee after the meeting.

Communications Committee Update

The 2020 Ethics Pledge results have been collected and sent out to the committee. The overall response rate increased to 67%. Unfortunately, the media release was not covered in any of the major news outlets. However, Julie will be working on media coverage with the committee's contacts in the near future.

Julie is drafting the 2020 annual plan and will be ready for review in January 2021.

SEAC NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 2021 Meetings

Motion: John Bowker; Second: Courtney Smith; and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

Proposed Local Ethics Enforcement Mechanism Update

Cal reported that the follow-up meeting with Senator Charbonneau was cancelled. However, the meeting will be rescheduled.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20th. It is to be announced whether the meeting will be held virtually or in person.

Adjournment

Motion: Courtney Smith; Second: John Bowker; and President Klein adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

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