



Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

Pledge and Call to Order: Courtney Smith, SEAC President called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and led the Pledge.

Introductions: In attendance were SEAC Commissioners Courtney Smith, Cecile LaCombe-Petro, Cal Bellamy, Julie McElmurry, Julie Wendorf, Dale Combs, Sandra Davis, Michael Suggs, Todd Larkin, JBOD President, Janice Malinowski, and Advisor Karen Marben. The meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Approval of November 2023 Minutes: After a motion by Julie McElmurry, seconded by Michael Suggs, the commission accepted the minutes of the November 2023 meeting as presented. These approved minutes have been uploaded to the website, sharedethics.com under the tab Info, Meeting Minutes.

Approval of 2024 SEAC Goals: After a motion by Cecile LaCombe-Petro, seconded by Dale Combs, the commission accepted the proposed 2024 SEAC Goals as presented. The 2024 SEAC Goals are uploaded to the website, sharedethics.com in the 2023 Annual Report.

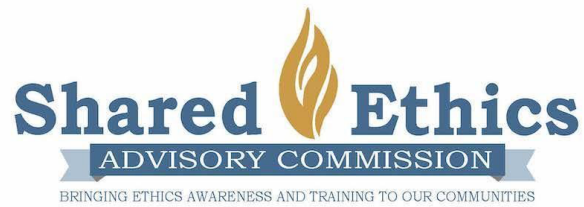
Approval of 2023 Annual Report: After a motion by Calvin Bellamy, seconded by Julie Wendorf, the commission accepted the proposed 2023 Annual Report as presented. The 2023 Annual Report is uploaded to the website, sharedethics.com under the tab Info, Annual Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Updates: Courtney reviewed the member communities who do not have Commissioners, these include Lake Station, LaPorte County, Merrillville, Portage, St John, Burns Harbor, Merrillville, Gary, Chesterton, and Valparaiso. Valparaiso is currently looking for a Commissioner to replace John Bowker. St John has neither a Commissioner nor a Joint Board of Delegates member. Courtney also discussed a group of Commissioners who are not attending the meetings, nor are they active in the Commission. If these folks do not engage soon, she recommended that we ask their community to replace them.

Cal Bellamy reached out to Merrillville for a Joint Board of Delegates. Cecile LaCombe-Petro has reached out to St. John. Michael Suggs has already reached out to Gary because he will be leaving the commission. Gary plans to appoint Marsha Harding. Michael can remain on the commission as an advisor. Courtney Smith will reach out to Burns Harbor, East Chicago, and Chesterton. Cal Bellamy will reach out to Portage and Valparaiso.

Financials: Julie McElmurry presented the SEAC Financials update. Mark Herak, the Highland Clerk Treasurer who is responsible for managing SEAC financials, provided the financial report.



Summit Update:

The Summit is planned for the morning of Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville. The speaker will be Debora Witzburg.

Training Committee Update:

Cecile plans to host a training for all three counties geared toward the Department Heads and Managers for the municipalities. Watch for information to forward to your municipality.

Communications Committee Update:

Julie is working on getting the lists of candidates and will be sending out the Candidate Ethics Pledge once she has the candidate lists.

The website is starting to have its colors and fonts selected. Mary Frieda Flores is working on getting logos to the Executive Committee and will have something for us to review at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

Next Meeting:

The next SEAC Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 via Zoom.

Adjournment: Courtney adjourned the meeting at 9:30am.