

## SEAC Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2024

Meeting was called to order: 8:32

In attendance were SEAC Commissioners Courtney Smith, Sheryl Corey, Cecile LaCombe-Petro, Cal Bellamy, Julie McElmurry, Dale Combs, Sandra Davis, Greg Wielogorski, Todd Larkin, Richard Hardaway, John Seibert, JBOD President: Janice Malinowski, Advisor: Karen Marben, and Guest: Mary Freda Flores

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

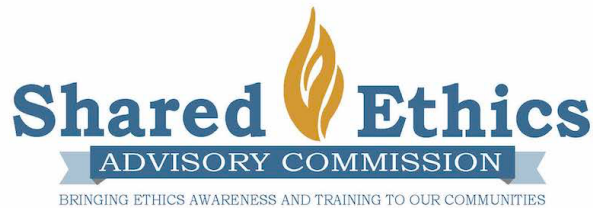
**Introduction of new Members:** Courtney introduced the following new members: Sheryl Corey, Cedar Lake Commissioner; Richard Hardaway, Merrillville Commissioner; John Siebert, Valparaiso Commissioner; and Greg Wielogorski, St John Commissioner.

**Motion to Accept Minutes:** Motion made by Julie McElmurry and Seconded by Sandra Davis. **Motion Passed**

### **Member Updates**

Courtney Smith began with sharing the communities that have missing Commissioners and missing Delegates. Additionally, Courtney explained the difference between Board of Delegates as members of the Municipalities (paid or elected). Further, Courtney spoke about Commissioners that are inactive.

Cal Bellemy shared that he was working with City of Gary concerning assigning a new Commissioner and JBOD Delegate. Cal Bellemy shared that he also spoken to Michigan City's Mayor, is working to contact East Chicago, and Lowell. Lowell shared that they have a member for board of Delegates and a Commissioner and will send that information soon. Merrillville will also be sending information about a new JBOD Delegate soon.



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### **Financial Update**

Julie McElmurry reviewed the financial status of SEAC. No Spending in 2024 to date. There are upcoming expenses. The next large expense will be to Mary Freda Flores.

Joint Board of Delegates suggested and acted on the suggestion in mid-2023 that SEAC invest in 70,000.00 into a CD and allow it to mature. Janice Malinowski shared that the CD matures on May 29, 2024 and it will be rolled into another CD using the interest (5.5%) for expenses. Any additional Interest will be separated and will be placed into revenue.

All dues invoices have been sent. Not all funds have been received. A second notice will be sent out. Janice Malinowski shared that \$7,500.00 has been collected in dues to date.

### **2024 Summit Update**

Courtney Smith shared that the 2024 Summit will take place on October 24, 2024 at the Avalon in Merrillville. The guest speaker will be Deborah Witzburg from the City of Chicago. Cal Bellemy shared the credentials of Deborah Witzburg.

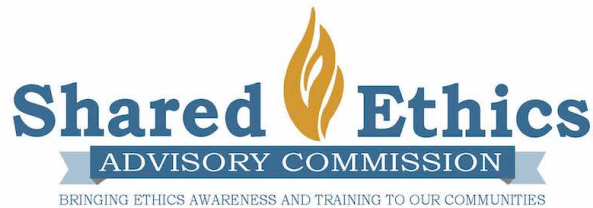
### **Training Committee Update**

Cecile LaCombe-Petro shared that the City of Hobart completed "Train the Trainer" training on Feb 7th. The trainers are going to meet as a group.

The Management Ethics Training event flyer has been sent to all SEAC Commissioners via email in order to send it to their community managers, department heads and supervisors and to encourage them to attend the training. The date of the training is May 31. There are approximately 40 people signed up as of this meeting date.

It was asked that the Commissions encourage their member communities to set a goal that all municipal employees be trained by June 30, 2024. This will enable a training cycle to be in place.

Should member communities need their trainers trained they can contact Cecile LaCombe-Petro to schedule "Train the Trainer" training. New Commissioners need to



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check with their community contacts to identify trainers to insure the training can be completed

Ethics Guides and Ethics Code Posters and handouts are available at NIRPC.

Cecile LaCombe-Petro asked that SEAC members provide Community Trainer contact information if possible. This will be helpful

Cal Bellemy asked for the number of Trainers have been trained to date? Cecile LaCombe-Petro stated that it will be made available to all members.

### **Communications**

Logo and Brand project update was shared by Mary Frieda Flores.

Mary Frieda Flores shared three Logo options to choose from. There was great discussion regarding the options presented. Mary Frieda Flores will present additional options.

Julie McElmurry shared status of the Candidate Ethics Pledge process for the May Primary Election and that she is reaching out to the League of Women Voters for assistance. Further, Julie shared the number of 2024 Primary Candidates that signed the Ethics Pledge. Finally, Julie McElmurry will send out a draft/email to all Commissioners with talking points to share with their community contacts and leaders regarding SEAC's status.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Richard Hardaway and seconded by Sandra Davis. It was passed and the Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am