

SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022

Pledge and Call to Order

John Bowker called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Introductions

In attendance were commission members John Bowker, Lynn Volkmann, Courtney Smith, Karen Marben, and Julie McElmurry. Flor Baum took the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the September 21, 2022 minutes have been tabled for the January 18, 2023 SEAC meeting.

SEAC OLD BUSINESS

Membership Updates

John Bowker presented on Membership Updates. Effective December 31, 2022, Lynn Volkmann (Schererville), April Daly (LaPorte County), and Rob Horning (Burns Harbor), will be resigning from SEAC. Communities missing commissioners are as follows: Crown Point, Hobart, Lake Station, St. John, Schererville, LaPorte County, and Burns Harbor. John will reach out to communities with vacancies after the new year.

Financials

Julie McElmurry presented on the Financial Report. As of October 31st, the remaining expenses for the Summit are \$6589.92 (Avalon and photos). Due to staff shortage, NIRPC will no longer be providing administrative support to the SEAC meetings. NIRPC's Finance Department will be reaching out to John with the final bill of approximately \$10K for the past two years. SEAC will continue to use the NIRPC building for storage of materials at no additional cost. Due to website hacking, SEAC will be moving the website to GoDaddy. A new credit card will be required. Julie McElmurry will be providing payment information. Of the \$54,402.91, the 2022 remaining budget is \$41,485.39.

Summit Update

John Bowker spoke on The Summit update. Of the 141 attendees, 91 people completed the survey. Evaluation results, of a rating from 1 (lowest) to a 5 (highest), ranked the event between 4 – 4.42. The premiere package, which includes audio and visual equipment, will be requested for next year's Summit at the Avalon.

Training Committee Update

Julie McElmurry presented on the Training Committee Update. Currently, there are 50 confirmed trainers that will attend the November 18th Train the Trainer Zoom session. The training video is also available, at no cost, on the SEAC website. Communities that need to pick up the Guides and/or Code posters, please reach out to Paula Carey.

Communications Committee Update

Julie McElmurry presented on Communications Committee Update. 66% of candidates have signed and submitted the Ethics Pledge. Media coverage for the Ethics Pledge was only covered in the LaPorte County newspaper. Despite having had communication exchange with Executive Editor, Joseph Hosey (The Times) regarding the media release, there was no coverage of the Ethics Pledge or the Summit. SEAC will consider buying ads in 2023 to secure media coverage. Julie also reminded the Commissioners that she will send out a new draft email with talking points for use in communicating to their community leaders. Julie will be working on the 2022 Annual Report and will be ready for review in January.

SEAC NEW BUSINESS

The proposed 2023 SEAC meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 18, 2023
- Wednesday, March 15, 2023
- Wednesday, May 17, 2023
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Wednesday, November 15, 2023

The dates will be added to the SEAC website. In-person meetings may be changed to virtual meetings.

Discussion regarding appointing a secretary to take the minutes will be tabled for the January meeting.

The next meeting is slated for January 18, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment

John Bowker adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Submitted by:

Flor Maria Baum, Administrative Assistant, NIRPC