

SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022

Pledge and Call to Order

John Bowker the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Introductions

In attendance were commission members April Daly, Calvin Bellamy, Julie McElmurry, Richard Morrisroe, John Bowker, Courtney Smith, Karen Marben, Lynn Volkmann, Art Russell, Brian Lowry, Paula Carey, and Burgess Peoples. Flor Baum took the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Lynn Volkmann; Second: April Daly; and the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 2022 meeting as presented.

Financials

Julie McElmurry presented the Financial Report. Michael Griffin will no longer be providing the financial report. Financial support is in transition, Dan is working with the new Highland Clerk Treasurer to ensure we receive the financial report as needed. There have been \$1396 disbursements as of February 2022. \$12,513.00 have been collected in dues since February. The cash balance is \$102,835.91 of which \$44,909.00 is unappropriated.

SEAC OLD BUSINESS

Membership Updates

John Bowker presented on Membership Updates. The communities missing commissioners are Crown Point, Lake Station, St. John, and Westville. Cal Bellamy met with the St. John town manager, Joe Wiszowaty to identify trainers. Joe will meet with the town council for further discussion. Cal will follow up with St. John. Cal has also talked to the Westville town council and will reach out to them again in the later future.

Summit Update

John Bowker spoke on The Summit update. Discussion about having Governor Holcomb be the keynote speaker. However, scheduling must be no more than 60 days out. An option is to have a panel in place of or in lieu of the case studies. The panel would consist of one moderator, the elected public sector, professional public sector, and the professional group. Commissioners were given an input request form which included a list of prospective panelists to choose from. Results will be sent to John.

Motion: Courtney Smith; Second: Julie McElmurry; and the commission voted to approve funding of \$800 for a new podium backdrop to be used at The Summit. Cal is working to design and purchase the backdrop.

Training Committee Update

Paula Carey presented on the training committee. She demonstrated the new training video and options for use. The training video is approximately one hour and 20 minutes long if watched without stopping. The introduction with the Ethics Code and other vignettes of the training were viewed. The commission responded positively to the video demo and commended Paula for her work. The first Train-the-Trainer is currently being scheduled. Paula also reminded the Commissioners to provide her with the trainer's names and contact information (mainly email address) for their community so they can be included in the training. She also reminded the Commissioners who haven't already picked up their Ethics Guides to do so before leaving the building.

Communications Committee Update

Julie McElmurry presented on Communications Committee Update. She shared the results of the Primary Election Ethics Pledge :59 of the 131 Lake County candidates, 35 of the 136 LaPorte County candidates, and 44 of the 93 Porter County candidates signed the pledge. Julie advised the Commissioners representing the counties to reach out to their county election boards and county party chairs to get ideas for getting a better response of elected officials signing the pledge. Additionally, the commission discussed eliminating township candidates from the list of potential pledge signers. Further discussion slated for the July 20th meeting. Julie also reminded the Commissioners that she will send out a draft email / talking points for use in communicating to their community leaders.

SEAC NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

The next meeting is slated for July 20, 2022 at 8:30 a.m..

Adjournment

Motion: Lynn Volkmann; Second: Julie McElmurry; and John Bowker adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Submitted by:

Flor Maria Baum, Administrative Assistant, NIRPC