

MINUTES OF ETHICS COMMISSION

DATE: May 27, 2008

Call to order: The Ethics Commission was held in City Hall-St. James Building, Jacksonville, Florida on May 27, 2008. The meeting convened at 4:08 p.m.

Attendees:

Jay Williams, Chair

Pat Sher

Pat Plumlee

Mary Swart

Mary Alice Phelan

Bill Wilkens, Kirby Oberdorfer, Braxton Gilliam, Gene Filbert, Vice-chair (excused absences)

Carla Miller, Ethics Officer, Christine Lyle, Ethics Coordinator, Jon Phillips, General Counsel's office were also in attendance.

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The April 28, 2008 Commission meeting minutes and the Hotline and Education Sub-Committee minutes of May 22, 2008 were reviewed and a motion was made by Patrick Plumlee to approve the minutes and a 2nd motion by Pat Sher. The motion carried unanimously.

The Ethics Thought was given by Carla Miller.

The Chair gave the floor to Carla Miller, Ethics Officer, for an update of the lobbying registration forms. Carla reported that more and more are registering but that the "issues" are vague and repetitive, such as "land use", "contract", and "various". Carla believes the issues need to be clarified per 602.801, "purpose for which" and suggests the language be updated (approximately 20 years old) and cleaned up.

Carla suggested a review of the 2008-470 bill that has been filed. A lengthy discussion regarding the lobbyist section of the bill was conducted and it was concluded that the Commission would support the bill as is. The Legislative Sub-Committee will contact Council Member Clark and advise him of their support. The Commission also concluded that the main areas to monitor at this time are Land Use, Zoning and Procurement.

Carla brought the gift section of 2008-470 to the Commission's attention, noting that the bill takes out officers that are in the State level already and that the local gift forms will be done on line.

A motion was made by Mary Alice Phelan and seconded by Patrick Plumlee to support and sponsor the 2008-470 bill.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Hotline Sub-Committee: Minutes from the May 22, 2008 meeting were approved. They are working on a process for the calls to go through City Info and the minutes reflect the status of the progress with the Hotline.

Education Sub-Committee: Minutes from the May 22, 2008 meeting were approved. Training is in process and a spreadsheet will be designed to track training. The minute reflect the status of the progress.

The Chair opened the floor for comment. Ms. Helen Ludwig shared that the public is most concerned with the LUZ process.

Adjourned 5:30 pm.

Next meeting scheduled: June 23, 2008

Christine Lyle
Ethics Commission Coordinator

Date of Approval

