

Minutes: Legislative Sub-Committee
Jacksonville Ethics Commission
7/18/2008

Attending: Braxton, Mary Alice, Kirby and Ethics Officer, Carla Miller

1. The group elected Braxton chair of the sub-committee.
2. There was a discussion on the ethics code revisions (gifts/lobbying) going to the full Council next Tuesday (2008-470). Council Member Yarborough's amendments were discussed. It was decided that members of the Legislation committee should attend Tuesday's council meeting to show the support of the Commission for this bill. Kirby and Mary Alice can attend.
3. There was discussion on the section in the lobbying ordinance on quasi-judicial hearings (602.801 (a)(2)). The committee wants to get more information on how this process works and how transparent it is to local citizens. The Ethics Officer agreed to find out more data on this and present it to the sub-committee. Quasi-Judicial hearings are defined in Florida statutes. (We need to get a copy of this.)
4. Braxton discussed the due process provisions of the Ethics Commission's ability to hear complaints. It was decided to review the city's existing code provisions on administrative hearings and the state law on procedures of ethics commissions and propose an amendment to the Jacksonville Ethics Code that would adopt these tested administrative procedures. This will establish a clear protocol for handling complaints submitted to the Ethics Commission.
5. The sub-committee wants a report from the Ethics Officer as to implementation of the revisions to the Ethics Code from last November and will propose this to the entire commission at the next meeting.
6. The next meeting will be August 15, 2008; Office of General Counsel, Conference Room E at noon.