

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



GENE FILBERT
Chair

KIRBY OBERDORFER
Vice-Chair

ETHICS COMMISSION

BRAXTON GILLAM
HELEN LUDWIG
PATRICK PLUMLEE

Minutes
Legislative Subcommittee
Ethics Commission
Monday, May 18, 2009
Lynwood Roberts Room

PATRICIA SHER
SCOTT SHINE
MARY SWART
RHONDA PEOPLES-
WATERS

The Legislative Subcommittee meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Braxton Gillam at 4:27 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Braxton Gillam, Chair; Gene Filbert, Helen Ludwig, Rhonda Peoples-Waters and Scott Shine

Excused: Patricia Sher and Kirby Oberdorfer

Others in attendance: Carla Miller, Ethics Officer; Jon Philips, Office of General Counsel and Susan Stewart, Ethics Coordinator

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from the April subcommittee meeting as offered. The motion carried.

An update was given on the status of the Charter Revision Commission.

Scott Shine provided a handout relating to the question of "Circumstances where the city charges for the labor to produce a public record" for review to be discussed at the next meeting.

Members discussed the question of independence of the Ethics Commission and Ethics Office and what the committee wants to do in response to the presentation by Robert Myers and the power of the EC.

Some members stated the need for a process on how to deal with complaints that come into the Ethics Commission and a dedicated funding source for independence and authority to prosecute for the EC. Discussion followed on the powers of the EC.

The Chair stated concern with no funding or staff and that the Ethics Officer reports directly to the Mayor and City Council. A problem could arise if a complaint were filed about a City Council Member or someone in OGC.

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Make up of this and other Ethics Commissions were discussed, as well as models and history of the Ethics Officer positions.

Members discussed the EC indirect subpoena power through the Council President and Council Secretary and that it could be problematic if they wanted to subpoena people with the subpoena power and that it would only be necessary for records outside government.

Chairman Gillam stated the EC has no control over authorities and made the suggestion to use the time together to talk about what concerns need to be formulated into recommendations to the Charter Review Commission. Another goal could be to get the current budget amount for the Ethics Office of \$98,000 transferred over to the Ethics Commission, which would be a huge success.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to request that Gene Filbert, Ethics Commission, Chair to write a letter to the Council President requesting that the Ethics Commission be provided an opportunity on the agenda to speak at one of the meetings of the Charter Revision Commission.

The Chair announced that the next meeting will be a mapping session that will be prioritizing important issues, such as bullet points on changes for the CRC. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3rd at 4:30 p.m. and Carla will have info from Philadelphia and other cities available for the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Susan Stewart
Ethics Coordinator

Date of Approval

This is a summary of the meeting and is not a verbatim transcription. A tape recording of these proceedings is available in the Duval Legislative Delegation Office at City Hall.