

MINUTES OF ETHICS COMMISSION

DATE: November 24, 2008

Call to order: The Ethics Commission was held in City Hall-St. James Building, Jacksonville, Florida on November 24 2008. The meeting convened at 3:52 p.m.

Attendees:

Jean Williams, Chair
Gene Filbert, Vice-chair
Pat Plumlee
Mary Swart
Braxton Gillam
Kirby Oberdorfer
Mary Alice Phelan
Helen Ludwig
Pat Sher (excused absence)

Carla Miller, Ethics Officer, Christine Lyle, Ethics Coordinator, and Pam Markham, Inspector General were in attendance. Jon Phillips, General Counsel's office attended by telephone.

The Chair called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair introduced Helen Ludwig, the new Commission member replacing Bill Wilkens (Civil Service Board Appointment).

The October 20, 2008 Commission meeting minutes were reviewed and a discussion was held regarding Pat Sher's correspondence regarding the meeting minutes. A motion was made by K. Oberdorfer to approve the minutes as is and attach Ms. Sher's amendment to the minutes. G. Filbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Ethics thoughts were given by Carla Miller.

The Ethics Officer informed the Commission that Ms. Ludwig has already attended the Ethics training session and welcomed her to the Commission. She advised the Commission members that if they are going to be late or at the last minute, absent, from a meeting, they could contact her via cell phone. She also reminded the Commission not to respond to e-mails from other members, that if they had any questions, comments, or suggestions to be shared with the Commission, to send them to her and she will disseminate the information. The Ethics Officer advised the Commission that she has been reviewing parliamentary procedures, that in the past there were not many, if any, controversy issues, but there is a need to tighten them up now with the different viewpoints and issues brought to the Commission. She also suggested that the Commission set goals for the New Year.

There was discussion regarding the new on-line security system put in place for the Hotline cases to be previewed by the members prior to them being brought before the full Commission for passage. The draft Hotline Manual has been reviewed by B. Gillam who has approved it and the Manual will be forwarded to the Commission for review before it's posted on-line.

The Ethics Officer discussed the updated Confidentiality Statement to be signed by all members. She also reported on the Anti-corruption conference in Greece.

There was discussion regarding J-Bill3. G. Filbert made a motion to adopt the resolution recommending the withdrawal of J-Bill3 (JPA comply with financial disclosure requirement). M. Swart seconded the motion and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the resolution on Chapter 602.703, Gifts. Kirby made a motion to adopt the Resolution recommending the repeal of 602.703 as superfluous. P. Plumlee seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Sub-Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: K. Oberdorfer announced their recommendation for Chair in 2009 is Gene Filbert. M. Phelan made a motion for Mr. Filbert to be the Chair in 2009, B. Gillam seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. *M. Phelan, Helen Ludwig and G. Filbert volunteered to be the nominating committee to make recommendation for M. Phelan's position.

Hotline Sub-Committee: P. Plumlee, Chair of sub-committee, discussed the Hotline case procedure and reported that the sub-committee recommends all of the outstanding cases are ready for closure. There was a motion by M. Swart to close the following hotline cases:

2008-2
2008-5
2008-8
2008-10
2008-11
2008-12
2008-15
2008-16

K. Oberdorfer seconded the motion to close the above cases and motion passed unanimously.

P. Plumlee moved that the Hotline meeting minutes from October 20, 2008 and November 20, 2008 be approved. G. Filbert seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

There was discussion regarding the October 20, 2008 meeting and the response from the Office of General Counsel. M. Phelan expressed her thanks to the General Counsel's office for the timely response and moved that no further action was necessary on this matter. B. Gillam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on the Holiday party. M. Phelan will sponsor the event at the River Club on Wednesday, Dec 17th at 6:30 p.m.

The following meetings were scheduled:

December 11, 2008, noon – Hotline Committee
December 15, 2008, 2:30 p.m. – Nominating Committee (for vice-chair and new Commission member)
December 15, 2008, 3:30, full Commission meeting

It was suggested that the February meeting be held at the Florida Coastal School of Law.

Public Comment: A citizen commended the Commission.

Adjourned 4:56 pm.

Next meeting scheduled: December 15, 2008

Christine Lyle

December 15, 2008

Ethics Commission Coordinator

Date of Approval

See attachment approved on November 24, 2008.