

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



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ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 23, 2019
Don Davis Room
City Hall – First Floor

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Rogan, Chair of the Ethics Commission, at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Commission Attendees: Joseph Rogan, Ellen Schmitt, LaTonya Lipscomb Smith, J. J. Dixon (arrived at 5:09 p.m.), Carlton DeVooght, Imani A. Boykin, and George Candler. Attended via conference call: Mary Bland Love. Excused: Darcy Galnor. Other attendees: Carla Miller, Director, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight (“OECO”); Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Director, OECO; and Cherry Shaw Pollock, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel (“OGC”).

Public in Attendance:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Mr. Rogan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Miller shared the Ethics Thought.

Minutes Approval:

April 3, 2019 Ethics Commission Meeting minutes: Mr. DeVooght made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Boykin seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Miller announced that Lourdes Barboza relocated to Tallahassee, Florida. Ms. Barboza will continue to work with the Ethics Office remotely on a part-time basis until a replacement is hired.

OECO has been working on preparations for the City Council Ethics Training on June 5th at 9:00 a.m. Elected officials from the Beaches and Duval County Soil & Water District Office will also be in attendance. Ethics Commission members were invited to attend.

Ms. Miller reported on the results of the local elections. She sent newly elected officials an introduction to Ethics and the Sunshine Law. Ms. Miller mentioned that OECO has Budget meetings scheduled for June, then she spoke about Financial Disclosure Filing and the upcoming GlobalJax meeting on June 18th at 1:00 p.m. where OECO will welcome officials from Paraguay. Ethics Commission members were invited to attend.

Office of Ethics, Compliance & Oversight
117 W. Duval Street, Room 225
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 255-5507 HOTLINE: 630-1015

There was no report from the Office of General Counsel.

Committee Reports:

Complaints Committee: Ms. Schmitt reported that one complaint was received since the last Ethics Commission meeting against a candidate running for office. The complaint was returned to the Complainant per Ethics Commission Complaint Procedures.

There were no other Committee reports.

Ethics Training:

Ms. Miller reviewed the Top 10 Danger Areas for Boards and Commissions; Sunshine Law, Public Records, Gifts, Asking for Things, Voting Conflicts of Interest, Misuse of Position, Public Comment, Bribes, and Dual Office Holding. She also mentioned prohibition on ex-parte communications on complaints.

Dr. Candler recommended Ms. Miller contact the Beaches Watch organization to discuss with Beaches officials consideration of opting into the jurisdiction of the Ethics Office and Ethics Commission. Ms. Miller summarized past efforts to interact with the Beaches governments about ethics.

Old Business:

Ordinance 2019-220: Ms. Miller updated the Ethics Commission members on Ordinance 2019-220, which was passed at the City Council meeting on May 16th.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-54: Ms. Miller announced that the bill was withdrawn by the Rules Committee after being deferred. It goes to the City Council consent agenda on May 28th. Ms. Miller explained that discussions concerning appointments to boards generally may arise as part of the Charter Revision Commission. Ms. Miller explained that OGC has assured that OGC will discuss future legislation regarding ethics with the Ethics Commission and Ms. Miller. A discussion followed.

OECO Budget: The Mayor's office supported adding 234 extra hours and \$10,860 to the OECO budget for this fiscal year for additional part-time hours for Ms. Miller, and \$22,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Mr. Rogan thanked Ms. Miller for her efforts and explained the need to continue increasing the OECO budget for continuity of the director and deputy director positions. The Ethics Commission members and Ms. Miller discussed and expressed appreciation for the Mayor's and City Council's support of OECO. Ms. Oberdorfer explained Ms. Miller's efforts to improve ethics awareness among City Council members.

Old Business:

2019-393: Ms. Miller summarized the new proposed ordinance by Council Member John Crescimbeni and her discussions with CM Crescimbeni regarding same. The proposed bill places a limited lobbying ban of two years to board and commission members that file Form 1 Financial Disclosures. Ms. Miller summarized the interplay of this proposed ordinance with state law and the state constitutional amendment regarding ethics passed in 2018. There was discussion of the pros and cons of the bill and whether to issue a resolution from the Ethics Commission.

Dr. Candler made a motion to pass a resolution drafted by Mr. Rogan in support of 2019-393, which was seconded. Mr. Rogan opened the floor for public comment. There being no public in attendance, there was no public comment offered. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

Update on Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee: Mr. Rogan provided background of the Committee and recent action to approve a new evaluation form for the Inspector General. He reported that Lisa Green has served for one year and will be the longest serving IG in Jacksonville history. Mr. Rogan noted the high level of engagement by the members of the Inspector General Selection and Retention Committee, and specifically praised the contributions by CAO Sam Mousa (the Mayor's designee), who is rotating off the Committee. Ms. Miller summarized Mr. Rogan's feedback on the IG evaluation form.

Public Comment:

There was no comment offered as there were no members of the public in attendance.

Announcements:

The next Ethics Commission meetings are scheduled for June 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. and August 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The Legislative Committee will meet in July 2019.

Ms. Miller asked Ethics Commission members to RSVP for the ethics training and GlobalJax meetings.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Lourdes Barboza, Executive Assistant, OECO

Date of Approval

This is a summary of the meeting and not a verbatim transcription. A recording of these proceedings is available at <http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-office/notices,-agendas-minutes> .