

SHARED ETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019

Pledge and

Call to Order:

President Klein called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions:

In attendance were Commission members Calvin Bellamy, Sarah Oudman, Tim Huizenga, Julie McElmurry, Merlin Foresman, Michael McIntyre, Rich Weigel, Dan Klein, Art Russell, Steve Grandfield, Courtney Smith, Lynn Volkmann, LeAnn Angerman, Jamie Ward, and John Bowker. Also in attendance were SEAC advisors Karen Marben from the City of Crown Point and Tom DiGilio of the Town of Dyer. As a guest of the commission, Matt Luth, Valparaiso University Professor, was in attendance at the invitation of Julie McElmurry. Courtney Smith took the minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

Correction request from John Bowker that the minutes indicate that the next meeting is November 20th, however from our last session the meeting is September 18, 2019. **Motion:** John Bowker; **Second:** Michael McIntyre; and the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 2019 meeting as presented.

SEAC OLD BUSINESS

Financial Report:

President Klein provides report as of July 2019.

Membership

Communities

Without

Appointments:

Chesterton: Courtney reached out to Bernie Doyle and Kim Benko of Horizon Bank. She will reach out to Pat Carlisle for a sit down.

Crown Point: The City of Crown Point is actively searching for a new Commissioner. Dan will check back with Andrew.

Gary: Cal and Dan had a meeting with Mayor-Elect Jerome Prince will be reaching back once he is confirmed.

Portage: With the November election, we will reach out in the new year. Steve reached out to John Cannon and they will table until the election.

St. John: Dan reached out to someone and never had a return call. The commission agrees to wait until after elections.

Westville: Jamie Ward reached out and a potential commissioner has been reached out to. We can wait to hear back.

Additionally, the commission discussed prospective members of LaPorte. Cal approached them two mayors ago and the current mayor and perhaps the next mayor. We will approach after elections.

Training Committee: *Survey Update:* Emails from Jamie and Tim for your community. There are hard copies now of the survey for each commissioner to take back to their community. Please take your documents and hand deliver to your community. Be prepared to answer questions.

Cal recommends that we do a media blast regarding our survey results. Cal had to write a report for the Times to publish last time and recommends that this happens again. Dan met with Marc Chase several weeks ago and is willing to sit with him again.

Management Training: Lynn has been vital in this mission. Department head training is scheduled for NEXT WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The presenter is David Limardi from Limardi consulting. His presentation will be on "The Relentless Pursuit of an Ethical Culture." SEAC members are encouraged to attend. Pay special attention to the bullet points from the agenda. There are 9 communities that have not even registered yet. RSVP due by Friday, September 20, 2019.

The following communities need to be reached out to again:

- Burns Harbor
- Ogden Dunes
- Cedar Lake
- East Chicago
- Munster
- Chesterton
- Hobart
- Porter County
- Hebron

Commissioners discussed possible reasons that attendance is low. Perhaps the speaker is too soon of a repeat, lack of knowledge by lower management due to not passing out flyers, too close to the election, and other issues.

Communications
Committee:

Candidate Ethics Pledge: For the 2019 General Election Planning the committee is currently looking into electronic options for signing the pledge and transmission to the candidates.

The committee does have lists from all three counties. The emails are available for many candidates and will be sent to those candidates, as well as hard copy. The lists are available already for the general election in Lake and Porter Counties.

Website update: Les Osborne is the new web administrator for our current website. There is a website contract with fees of \$1500.00 for initial set up and a \$100.00 active month maintenance fee. Which only is applied when Les has to modify the website. **Motion:** Rich Weigel; **Second:** John Bowker, and the commission approved this expenditure unanimously. We are continuing to review updated website needs and the audience we are attempting to reach. Efforts to improve the website are in process.

SEAC NEW BUSINESS

News:

Mary Thorne has passed away unexpectedly. The commission would like to send a card to NIRPC in honor of her service to the commission.

Strategic Plan:

Intent of the commission: We are putting things on hold with these issues in the bullet points on the agenda, but these are the things we want to evaluate and look at moving forward.

The Board of Delegates is meeting in October, on the 4th, at NIRPC. We will send 2 or 3 members to determine a better understanding of what the Board of Delegates does and their role with the commission. This will also be a beneficial networking time.

What we need
From you:

Committee Involvement: Sign up for at least one committee. If a commissioner is on the Summit Committee, please sign up for a secondary committee. This is not really a committee; rather it is an event that all commissioners should involve themselves in some way.

The membership committee is also not a real committee. We are all responsible for the engagement of commissioner communities and new commissioners. So, we need everyone to be on a committee of either training or communications. Each has a ramp up during event time, but there are many jobs that are available.

Attend and assist the department head training. Share the flyer with your community.

Tom DiGiulio discussed exploring International City/County Managers Association in order to help update some of our ethics materials. Tom is a member of this and is going to a conference in October to discuss with Martha regarding helping us move forward in our strategic planning.

The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2019, at 8:30 at NIRPC.

Adjournment:

Motion: Michael McIntyre; **Second:** Julie McElmurry; and President Klein adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Courtney Smith, Vice President