

City of Valparaiso Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 5:30-6:30pm, Valparaiso City Hall

Attending were Analisa Warring (Chair), Bill Oeding (City Ethics Officer/Ex Officio), Dr. James Old (member), Mike Porter (member), Jon Schmaltz (Advising Attorney/Ex Officio), and Tim Sutherland (Secretary), Dr. Rob Walsh (member) was unable to attend. No one attended from the media.

The Commission met first in Executive Session. At 5:35 Chair Analisa Warring called the meeting to order, with a quorum present. The prior meeting minutes from January 13, 2015 were approved, and well as the proposed agenda for the current meeting.

Since the last meeting: On the morning of March 12, Bill Oeding and Tim Sutherland attended the annual Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) “Summit” at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, with a keynote presentation from Indiana Supreme Court Justice Robert Rucker.

The group discussed that during the process of joining the SEAC there was a misunderstanding about the initial vs. annual costs for membership, but after discussion this was resolved, and the SEAC membership for the City is budgeted for and now finalized.

The group reviewed a web page, PowerPoint outline, and sample videos all concerning ethics, created by Carla Miller, Network Fellow, 2013-15, Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, at <http://www.cityethics.org/harvard-lab>. Carla, in 2012, was hired as a consultant for the City and met with multiple constituents in leadership from the City about ethics and ethics training. Carla sent this link and contents for review by the Ethics Commission. Comments about this “tools for ethics practitioners” site can be sent to cmiller@cityethics.org.

John Bowker has been appointed to represent the City of Valparaiso on the SEAC Executive Board – Board of Delegates (fiduciary body for SEAC). Dorothy Bass has agreed to serve as the Valparaiso private citizen representative for the SEAC (Dorothy will be returning to Valparaiso by June 1 and will return signed documents to make her appointment formal).

Three City employees have stepped forward to be trainers: Police Officer Tom Zimmerman, Firefighter Terry Morgan, and Parks Department Business and Operation Manager Steve Antonetti. They will attend an ethics “train the trainer” session on June 2. Bill indicated the goal will be for the three City employee trainers to each reach 50 colleagues each year with training (150 total), and to then reach all 300 employees after 2 years. Bill also indicated that some communities occasionally trade trainers and have them train employees within area communities.

The group will begin inviting John Bowker, Dorothy Bass, and the 3 City employee trainers to Commission meetings beginning with the July 21 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, July 21, at City Hall, with executive session at 5:30 (if needed), and regular session at 5:35. Minutes submitted by Tim Sutherland.