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ETHICS COMMISSION

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

February 13, 2019

Conference Room B, Second Floor, City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Darcy Galnor, Chair, at 2:36 p.m. A quorum was present. Attendees: Darcy Galnor, LaTonya Lipscomb Smith, Carlton DeVooght, Ellen Schmitt, and Imani A. Boykin. Others in attendance: Joseph Rogan, Chair, Ethics Commission; Carla Miller, Director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Oversight (OECO); Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Director OECO; Cherry Shaw Pollock, Office of General Counsel (OGC); and Lourdes Barboza, Executive Assistant OECO.

Public in Attendance:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

New Business:

Ms. Galnor asked Ms. Miller to speak about the past activities and purpose of the Legislative Committee. Ms. Miller summarized the issues that the Legislative Committee has worked on in the past. She then spoke about possible topics that the Legislative Committee may be interested in pursuing this year, including transparency in City government, Sunshine Law issues, and PACs and campaign ethics. Other issues the Legislative Committee can consider exploring are completing the revisions of Part 4 of Chapter 602, revising parts 11 and 12 of Chapter 602, update lobbying laws, monitoring economic incentives, and considering State Ethics Commission proposed laws at a local level. Ms. Oberdorfer added that the Committee may also consider State Legislature proposed laws at a local level.

Mr. Rogan spoke to the Committee members about choosing projects that not only interest them personally, but also to consider ongoing issues in the community. He explained the various steps involved in introducing legislation. He summarized the issues that the Committee covered last year, including expanding the misuse of position laws (Section 602.401) and adjusting the conflicts ordinance about Board members (Section 602.402).

Ms. Galnor stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss ideas and potential projects for the Legislative Committee. She opened the floor for the discussion of issues that members would like to research. Ms. Schmitt would like to explore Sunshine Law issues. There was discussion about various ways that the Legislative Committee can get involved at the state and local level. Ms. Schmitt will monitor State Ethics Commission proposed laws and report her findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

There was discussion about additional topics to consider. Ms. Galnor will read the full Task Force on Open Government report to present topics that the Committee may want to pick up. She will also invite Mr. Hank Coxe to attend a future Ethics Commission meeting to speak about the subject. Mr. DeVooght suggested that it would be beneficial for all Committee members familiarize themselves with the recommendations of the Task Force report so they can be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Ms. Oberdorfer will circulate her summary of the recommendations of the Task Force to the Committee.

There was then some discussion about the issue of PACs at a local level. Ms. Miller suggested that it may be more of a long term project. In March, she will attend a national conference and will present information from the summit to the Committee upon her return.

Mr. Rogan gave background on Part 12 of the Jacksonville Ethics Code. He then offered to draft a request, if the Committee shows interest, for a legal opinion from OGC regarding Part 12 about whether the Complaints Committee has the authority to investigate and proceed on violations of Sunshine and Public Records laws.

Mr. DeVooght made a motion for Mr. Rogan to draft a request for a legal opinion from OGC about Part 12 of the Ethics Code. Ms. Lipscomb Smith seconded the motion. After additional discussion Mr. DeVooght amended the motion to include only Public Records and Sunshine Law in the opinion. Ms. Lipscomb Smith seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

There was further discussion about additional issues the Legislative Committee may tackle. Ms. Galnor recommended that the Committee begin working on the strategic goals that were already discussed.

Public Comment:

There were no members from the public present for comment.

Next Meeting:

Dates for the next Legislative Committee meeting will be circulated via email once the opinion is received from OGC.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:15 p.m.

Lourdes Barboza

Lourdes Barboza
Executive Assistant
Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight

March 7, 2019

Date of Approval

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This is a summary of the meeting and is not a verbatim transcription. A recording is available at the Ethics Commission web site at [http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-commission/notices,-agendas---minutes-\(1\).aspx](http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-commission/notices,-agendas---minutes-(1).aspx)