**CITY OF NORWALK**
**BOARD OF ETHICS**
**REGULAR MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michael Church; Miklos Koleszar; Michelle Coppola; Kara Murphy; Haroldo Williams

## ROLL CALL

Chairman Church called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. A quorum was present.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public came forward to speak.

## ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

**December 15, 2016**

Attendance Correct spelling to "Miklos Koleszar"

** **MR. KOLESZAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 15, 2016 MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
** **MS. MURPHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## OLD BUSINESS

**Review of Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting**

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to make changes to Section 32-12. He stated that he would like to see the number of members increased from 5 with two alternates to a total of 7 members. Discussion followed on the role of alternates and the balance of party affiliation.

Mr. Williams recommended that the Board add a section to specify the limit and extent of nepotism that will be acceptable in Norwalk. Discussion followed on scenarios where hiring managers may feel pressure to hire the children of a colleague.

Mr. Williams stated that Section 32-4 should be changed. Currently, in the event that an officer or an employee of the City has a known conflict, he or she is directed to notify the Town Clerk. Mr. Williams stated that in the event that an officer or employee of the City has a known conflict, he or she should disclose it in writing to their supervisor, and the supervisor should file the written disclosure statement with the City Clerk.

Mr. Williams stated that a change be made to Section 32-8. He stated that the maximum dollar amount for gifts directly or indirectly solicited by an officer or employee should be increased from $50 to $100.

He also stated that a time period over which the $100 limit should apply to should be specified. Ms. Coppola stated that gifts received should include any gift baskets sent to offices and any gifts received at charity events. Mr. Church stated that the year time period should be the calendar year. Mr. Williams stated he it should be for the fiscal year of each department. Mr. Koleszar stated that following the July – June fiscal year would simplify the code. Mr. Church stated that throughout the Code, the $50 amount should be changed to $100.

Mr. Williams stated that in Section 32-10, he would like "future employment" changed to "employment."

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to make changes to Section 32-9 (D). He stated that he would like to reword the section to read "Whistle blower protection. It shall be a violation of the Code of Ethics for any officer, employee, or agency to threaten or retaliate or take any actions against an individual, including areas of employment, career advancement opportunities, benefits or contracting, as result of that individual making an ethics complaint or providing truthful information as part of any investigation of or hearing on an ethics complaint."

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to change Section 32-10 to read "An officer or employee shall not solicit employment with any person or company who has a substantial matter pending before the agency for which the officer serves or by whom the employee is employed. A matter is "substantial" if it involves a financial value of $1,000 or more or involves a question of significant public policy for the City."

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to add to the mission of the Board. An additional section would read "Promotes a public culture and operating environment of high ethical standard throughout the City of Norwalk, by educating, informing, and encouraging City officials, employees, residents and vendors of the City of Norwalk to become aware of the Norwalk Code of Ethics and to ensure that their public actions and activities are in compliance with the Norwalk Code of Ethics and high ethical standards."

Ms. Murphy stated that the large number of subsections can be relabeled to make the Code easier to read.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Church asked how many changes should be made to the Code should be made. Mr. Koleszar and Mr. Williams stated that making a full evaluation of the Code and presenting all of the changes at one time to the Legal Department and Common Council would be the best way to go about the changes.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was not held.

## ADJOURNMENT

** **MR. CHURCH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

** **MS. MURPHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services