

**CITY OF NORWALK
ETHICS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Church, Chair; Miklos Koleszar, Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Haroldo Williams, Lori Torrano

STAFF: Atty. Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Church requested everyone to introduce themselves. The Commissioners welcomed the new Commissioner, Ms. Lori Torrano.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

These were not discussed at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Review Code of Ethics and the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics

Mr. Church asked Atty. Candela if there were any topics that the Ordinance Committee were particularly interested in. Atty. Candela said that he would send the Ordinance Committee members an email asking if there were areas that they would like to specifically focus on. Mr. Church said that if the Ordinance Members wished to email the Ethics Committee any questions or comments they have.

Atty. Candela explained that the Code of Ethics will be on the March Ordinance agenda.

Mr. Williams asked how it would be handled if the Ordinance Committee had changes. Atty. Candela said that Ordinance had concerns about the definition of "Officer" and they did not feel it would cover a Council Member.

Atty. Candela said that the Ordinance does not have a definition of a conflict of interest. Discussion followed about the protocol and how inquiries were handled. Ms. Torrano pointed out that training the employees would be very important.

Atty. Candela said that the Ordinance Committee members were continually drawn back to the Conflict of Interest and section on gifts.

Mr. Church said that as the Commission dialogues with the Ordinance Committee, the Ordinance Committee members will gain a clearer understanding of the role of the Ethics Commission.

Atty. Candela directed everyone to CGS 1-206-§B5, which has to do with FOIA. Mr. Church pointed out that the decision should be based on facts along with discretion. Ms. Torrano said that there were areas that people would have to check with the Board. Discussion followed.

Mr. Church said that he would like the ordinance Committee to realize that this was a living document and that it should be updated regularly. Atty. Candela explained that there were ordinances that were approved and after it was enacted, difficulties arose over some of the smaller details. The ordinance then was brought to the Committee and the changes were made.

Mr. Church then read the section of the CGS regarding FOIA about individuals acting in bad faith.

Atty. Candela said that currently there is a discussion in the State subcommittee about the right to appeal negative decisions. Currently, the statute does not allow for an appeal.

Mr. Church said that he would like to have the State language inserted in the Code. Atty. Candela said that the Ordinance Committee can approve the Code as they see fit. He suggested that the Commissioners focus on this issue at the February meeting and then present it as a draft to the Ordinance Committee.

The February meeting will be held on the 28th and the March meeting will also be on the 28th.

NEW BUSINESS

• Introduce Lori

This was done earlier in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** MR. CHURCH MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

**** MR. WILLIAMS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners and Atty. Candela entered into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. in order to discuss personnel issues. They returned to Public Session at 8:47 p.m. No actions were taken or motions made during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. KOLESZAR SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services