

MINUTES OF NORWICH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING
January 3, 2017
SPECIAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Dixon
Kathryn Lord
Carol Menard
Gregory Schlough

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Ballard

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Anthony Black – seated as a Regular Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Director of Human Services Lee-Ann Gomes
Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson

1. Call to order: Carol Menard, Chair, called the January 3, 2017 meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present. Anthony Black was seated as a Regular Member.
3. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Chris Dixon, seconded by Greg Schlough, the minutes of December 12, 2016 were unanimously approved as presented.
4. Citizen Comment: None.
5. New Business:

Advisory Opinion Case 2016-8: Carol Menard, Chair, introduced Lee-Ann Gomes, Director of Human Services for the City of Norwich, to discuss Case 2016-8, a request for Advisory Opinion. A member of the Recreation Advisory Board has offered to serve as a program supervisor in a paid capacity. The Board seeks an Advisory Opinion regarding this situation.

Ms. Gomes described the process by which leaders or coaches were normally chosen for recreation department programs. Citizens come to the recreation department with ideas for classes. Coaches are generally not paid; however in order to run the winter basketball program it has been decided to pay two supervisors to oversee the program. Ms. Gomes noted there are no bylaws for the Recreation Advisory Board. Only three statements in the City Charter relate to the Recreation Advisory Board including a statement read aloud by Kathryn Lord, “No member shall be paid for their service.” The Ethics Commission agreed this statement was ambiguous regarding advisory board members being paid for coaching services.

Ms. Gomes clarified that tuition from program participants is used to offset programming costs, such as basketballs and renting gymnasiums in the Norwich Public Schools for the games, and will be used to pay the two supervisors. City budget funds will not be used to pay the two supervisors.

Discussion ensued.

Greg Schlough motioned that the position be posted and if no qualified applicants apply the advisory board member be allowed to perform the duties for payment. Tony Black seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session for Case 2016-9: On a motion by Greg Schlough, seconded by Kathryn Lord, the Ethics Commission unanimously voted to enter Executive Session to discuss Case 2016-9. The Ethics Commission entered Executive Session at 5:12 PM.

The Ethics Commission came out of executive session at 6:48 PM. Carol Menard, Chair, stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Greg Schlough made a motion that probable cause was found for ethics violations with respect to section 2-54(c) [Conflict of Interest, Gifts] in Case 2016-9 and the case will go to public hearing. Chris Dixon seconded the motion. Carol Menard abstained due to her completion of the Complaint form on behalf of the Ethics Commission. The motion carried.

6. Old Business: Carol Menard noted that the Ethics Commission was close to making the public hearing date and time public. The hearing schedule should be posted on the City of Norwich website by the end of the week.
7. Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn by Chris Dixon, seconded by Greg Schlough, the Ethics Commission adjourned at 6:52 PM.