

MINUTES OF NORWICH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING  
January 13, 2020  
VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert (Mac) Ballard, Scott Camassar and Robin Lawson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Lucas

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Robert Drozynski and Lori Ploof

ALTERNATES ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson

1. Call to order: Scott Camassar called the May 2020 meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
2. Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present. Robert Drozynski and Lori Ploof were seated as regular voting members.
3. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mac Ballard, seconded by Robin Larson, the minutes of the January 13, 2020, Ethics Commission (EC) meeting were approved as presented. Robert Drozynski and Lori Ploof abstained due to non-attendance.
4. Citizen Comment: None
5. Old Business:  
Nominate and Elect Chair and Vice Chair:  
Scott Camassar explained that due to the appointment of two new members to the Ethics Commission since the January meeting, the City Clerk's office suggested that the nominations and votes for the Chair and Vice Chair positions be held again.  
  
Mac Ballard nominated Scott Camassar to serve as Ethics Commission Chair. Robin Lawson seconded the nomination. Scott Camassar was voted in as Chair of the Ethics Commission. Scott Camassar abstained.  
  
Mac Ballard nominated Karen Lucas to serve as Ethics Commission Vice Chair. Robin Lawson seconded the nomination. Karen Lucas was unanimously voted in as Vice Chair of the Ethics Commission.
6. New Business:  
Advisory Opinions 2020-3: Attorney Sam Browning filed for an advisory opinion on the matter of an ethics complaint being filed against a committee. Discussion ensued. All members participated in the conversation.

On a motion by Mac Ballard, seconded by Robin Lawson, the Ethics Commission unanimously voted to respond in the negative to Mr. Browning, indicating that a

complaint of an ethics violation can be brought against individuals and not an entire committee or government entity.

2020-4: Attorney Sam Browning filed for an advisory opinion asking if a member of the Mohegan Park's Improvement and Development Advisory Committee's Disc Golf Subcommittee could buy a sponsorship and receive advertising on a tee off post on the Mohegan Park Disc Golf Course. Discussion ensued. All members participated.

On a motion by Lori Ploof, seconded by Robin Lawson, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously to respond to Mr. Browning in the affirmative that a member of the Mohegan Park's Improvement and Development Advisory Committee's Disc Golf Subcommittee can buy a sponsorship and receive advertising just like any member of the public.

Cases 2020-1, 2020-2:

On a motion by Robin Lawson, seconded by Mac Ballard, the Ethics Commission entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Cases 2020-1 and 2020-2 at 5:45 PM.

7. Executive Session:

Cases 2020-1 and 2020-2

The Ethics Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:53 PM. Chair Camassar reported no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mac Ballard made a motion with respect to Case 2020-1 and Case 2020-2 citing that the Ethics Commission found no probable cause to pursue any parts of these complaints. Robin Lawson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Camassar noted that the complaints will be sealed, stored with the City Clerk and remain confidential.

Chair Camassar will notify the claimants and respondents of the outcomes.

8. Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn by Robin Lawson, seconded by Mac Ballard, the meeting of the Ethics Commission adjourned at 5:55 PM.