

City of Roseville
Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

I. Call to Order

Chair Fjelstad called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Norine Quick-Lindberg, Nancy O'Brien, Matthew Becker, Margo Fjelstad, and Ben Lehman

Members Absent:

None.

Others Present:

Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager and Jim Erickson, City Attorney's Office

II. Oath of Office – Norine Quick-Lindberg

Chair Fjelstad administered Oath Office to newly appointed Ethics Commissioner Norine Quick-Lindberg and welcomed her to the Commission.

III. Approve Minutes of November 13, 2013

Lehman moved to approve the November 14, 2013 minutes, seconded by Becker.
Ayes All.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the most recent minutes are not on the City website. City Manager Trudgeon indicated that staff will put up the missing minutes on the website and thanked Commissioner O'Brien for bringing the matter forward.

IV. Review of April 9 Ethics Training Event

City Manager Trudgeon provided a brief overview of the event and said it was well attended and the presentation was well received. City Attorney Mark Gaughan was the presenter and the focus was directly on the Roseville Ethics Code. City Attorney Gaughan led the discussion about the applicability of the Ethics Code by going through some scenarios.

Commissioners echoed the comments that it was well received, the length was perfect, and the topic very relevant. Discussion about next April's training will begin at the next Ethics Commission meeting in August.

Commissioner Lehman asked if there was a survey done for the people that participated in the Ethics Training. City Manager Trudgeon replied that there was not this time, but that it would be worthwhile to do after future Ethics Training.

V. Discuss Ethics Tip

Commissioner Lehman brought forward an Ethics Tip regarding the recent changes to the Ethics Code this past January.

Chair Fjelstad asked for volunteers to write the next Ethics tip. Commissioner O'Brien volunteered to write the tip for the next meeting with a focus around the meaning of ethics in several different contexts.

VI. Review Ethics Code

Chair Fjelstad recapped the joint meeting with the City Council in January and the discussion about open meeting laws and the lack of ability for the Ethics Commission to meet in a closed session. Another point of the discussion was to allow for the withdrawal of an ethics complaint by the complainant.

Based on that discussion, Chair Fjelstad introduced language drafted by herself and Commissioner Lehman regarding the withdrawal of an ethics complaint. City Manager Trudgeon indicated that language drafted by the City Attorney regarding withdrawal of an Ethics Complainant is also included in the packet.

City Attorney Erickson reviewed the language drafted by Mr. Gaughan.

The Commission discussed what language should be included in the Ethics Code and worked on tailoring the language to meet all of the suggestions.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Lehman proposed the following language.

H. A complainant may withdraw a complaint in writing with the City Manager or City Attorney filed under this code at any time. Unless the City Council directs otherwise, City personnel need not take any further action in accordance with the Code after such withdrawal. Once acceptance by the City Council has been granted, the City Attorney or City Manager shall provide notice to the complainant, the subject of the complaint if appropriate, and the Ethics Commission that the withdrawal has been accepted.

Motion by Commissioner O'Brien moved approval of the language amending the Ethics Code to allow for the withdrawal of an ethics complaint as previously read by Commissioner Lehman. Seconded by Commissioner Becker.

Ayes All.

VII. Other Business

Commissioner Lehman asked if there were any outstanding financial disclosure reports. City Manager said he would double check and send a report out to the Ethics Commission members.

Commissioner Lehman asked if there were any ethics complaints filed with the City Manager or City Attorney. Staff reported that none were received.

Commissioner Quick-Lindberg asked some general questions about the application of the Ethics Code to the Ethics Commission and City Council. Staff and the Commission had discussion regarding how the code is applied to various groups.

VIII. Adjourn

Lehman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. and Becker seconded.
Ayes All.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Trudgeon
City Manager