

City of Langley, Washington

Ethics Training and Advisory Board

Chairman

Bob Frause

Members

Monica Guzman

Fred Herzon

Bob French

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2017

City Hall

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

1. Meeting call to order at 5:01 pm
Members present: Frause, French, Guzman.
2. Minutes of the August 28th were read and approved
3. Public comments: There were two guests, Langley City Council Burt Beush and Lily Fox, Langley resident interested in joining Ethic Committee.
 - Lily Fox background:
 - Born and raised on Whidbey Island. Has a Masters in History. Lily now lives on South Whidbey and she teaches US history as a full-time Adjunct Professor at Everett Community College and part time in Bellingham at WWU. She is interested in local public policy and public community service and as an Ethics Board member sees this opportunity to do both.
 - Bob French disclosed to have known Lily's parents and her since birth and that after consulting with Frause, they agreed to invite Lily introduce herself to Board.
 - Frause explained the process of applying for position as well as the work of Ethic Committee members. He shared a bit of History of past work done by committee the extensive work required in formulating opinions which as of date amount to 6 opinions different and some complicated cases. Lily was encouraged to follow through with application process.
 - Burt Beusch thanked committee for welcoming him and stated he was long overdue for attending the Ethics meeting, since he attends all of other committee and board meetings.
4. There was a brief discussion about who is keeping track of training and who is responsible for training City Staff. Ethics training will continue and will be provided twice a year in January and June. The EB will use training module #2 for those sessions.

It was agreed that Darlene will keep a list of new staff and volunteers that will need to be trained. Frause will consult with Mayor to determine if he wants to provide a refresher training for employees once a year. Over 50 stakeholders have been trained as of this date.

5. Ethical questions asked by citizens.

Discussion centered on what to do if alleged ethical issues are brought to the Boards attention but citizens don't want to complete the required Advisory Opinion request. Reasons stated were:

- Why not feeling comfortable completing form.
- Revealing identity, a requisite when completing form, seems problematic
- The difficulties of living in small town where everyone knows everyone and people interact wearing different hats.
- People being troubled about sticking their necks with a concern or complaint for fear of unpopularity or retaliation.
- How committee members should handle situations when approach by people in the street about ethical issues
- How citizens will perceive a Board that according to citizens is not doing anything.

The Board discussed changing rules that in the absence of a formal complaint (complete form) committee will review issue after hearing about allegations.

The Board also discussed the difference between personal ethics (your ethos) which is accumulated through good teachings and the Langley Code which establish ethical standards of conduct to which we aspire to emulate.

Retraining was proposed and considered, however it was concluded the only unbiased way is for Ethics Board to continue with policy of reviewing alleged ethical breach **only** when interested parties submit a complete form to committee requesting an opinion on an alleged breach.

6. It was agreed that PPT#2 will reflect new case examples to be presented in future teachings and that a Library will be created with new and old case examples that will reflect real situations as a learning tool.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Monica Guzman