

## **City of Valparaiso Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 5:30-7:00pm, Valparaiso City Hall**

Attending were Analisa Warring (Chair), Bill Oeding (City Ethics Officer/Ex Officio), Dr. James Old (member), Mike Porter (member), Jon Schmaltz (Advising Attorney/Ex Officio), Tim Sutherland (Secretary), and Dr. Rob Walsh (member). Cal Bellamy attended as a guest. No one attended from the media.

The Commission met first in Executive Session. At 5:35 Chair Analisa Warring called the meeting to order, with all members present. The prior meeting minutes from November 11, 2014 were approved, and well as the proposed agenda for the current meeting.

The group welcomed Cal Bellamy, representing the (Northwest Indiana) Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) [www.sharedethics.com](http://www.sharedethics.com). Cal presented the purpose of the SEAC, who current members are, current membership requirements, annual cost of membership, some results from past surveys of employees, and the “Code of Shared Ethics and Values”. Providing training for city/town employees via a “train the trainer” model is the strength of the SEAC. Training materials have been developed in conjunction with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Training has been a primary priority of the Valpo Ethics Commission (VEC) as well. SEAC with its resources could provide training beyond what VEC can do on its own. All training materials are included in the membership costs for SEAC. The initial cost for City of Valparaiso to join the SEAC is \$4300. \$2500 is a one-time enrolment fee, and \$1800 is a membership fee due annually. Because SEAC has grown to include members in Porter and LaPorte counties, SEAC is now more regionally centered in Porter County, and therefore participation in SEAC will be much easier for members from outside of Lake County. The Porter County Council is planning to join the SEAC in January 2015. SEAC has provided an annual breakfast program for members that included a keynote speaker, and in 2015 this event will also be called a regional “Ethics Summit”.

After Cal Bellamy concluded his presentation and answered questions, the group thanked him for his very comprehensive informative. After Cal’s departure, the group discussed membership and all were in favor of moving forward. From the meeting notes, Tim will draft some bullet points describing the value of the VEC joining the SEAC, and then Bill will send these to the City Council along with the SEAC handouts, indicating that the VEC supports the City Council moving ahead to have the City join the SEAC in the near future.

The group approved of the “Meet Your Ethics Commission” information drafted by Analisa to be included in both of the upcoming City’s newsletters. Two draft items were expanded to say “Current member *and appointing organizations* include:” and “Member at Large, *Appointed by Commission*”.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, February 10, at City Hall, with executive session at 5:30 (if needed), and regular session at 5:35. Minutes submitted by Tim Sutherland.