

Ethics Commission Nominating Committee
Minutes for the Public Meeting on March 30, 2019

Present: Mary Ellen Rhoderick, League of Women Voters, Chair
Ernest Heller, Ethics Commission member
Charles Mann, Hood College
Roger Smith, DC, Rotary Club
Absent: Roy Smith, Unitarian Fellowship

I. The meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission Nominating Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m on March 30, 2019 in the Flora Conference Room at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 15 W. Church Street, Frederick.

II. Mr. Heller moved, and Dr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Mr. Heller moved, and Dr. Smith seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. The committee reviewed the current procedure, which seems to be working well. The accessible location in downtown Frederick, and the change to a Saturday morning meeting time met with approval. Ms. Rhoderick reminded all that, with Mr. Greene unavailable, the committee's choices must be unanimous.

V. Vote to go into closed session

MOTION: Mr. Mann moved at 9:20 that the committee meet in a closed session to interview candidates for the Ethics Commission. Mr. Heller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was closed under General Provisions Art.3-305(b)(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction."

VI. MOTION: Mr. Mann moved to go back into public session at 11:15. Mr. Heller seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Discussion of the four candidates

The committee briefly discussed the recommendations made by outgoing Commission member Alan Shapiro. He advocated for strong, precise writing skills and a willingness to give extra time and effort in refining and expanding the Commission's work on ethics training.

Candidate 1, a new applicant, emphasized that this would be her first experience with this kind of public service. She is a writer who works from home and described herself as extremely introverted, and the interview process appeared to be uncomfortable for her. The concerns she expressed related more to a perceived lack of coordination between city and county governments than to ethical issues, and she didn't appear to have familiarized herself with the law or operating procedures.

Candidate 2, also a new applicant, is a scientist with extensive professional credentials and volunteer experience. She demonstrated familiarity with the Ethics Law and was very definite and articulate in her responses. She was enthusiastic about serving on the Commission. She is a lifelong resident of Frederick. In deference to transparency, Mr. Heller and she are acquaintances via a bridge playing group.

Candidate 3, an incumbent, demonstrated clear knowledge of the law and operating procedures of the Commission. Per Mr. Heller, he has been a productive member of the Commission. He is a member of the clergy. He would like to move from the alternate to a full membership position.

Candidate 4, also a new applicant, is a CPA who is currently an adjunct professor at Hood, teaching financial and managerial accounting. He previously served as a member and as President of the Frederick County Interagency Audit Authority, a plus in terms of government knowledge. He is a 25 yr. resident of Frederick County. Mr. Mann and candidate 4 were not acquainted prior to this meeting.

All of the candidates are residents of Frederick County and registered voters.

None have participated in party politics as defined by the criteria for Commission members, and none have plans to run for office.

The three new applicants all indicated they'd be willing to serve as the alternate.

All are willing to complete the financial disclosure form.

The ongoing training/educational work of the Commission was described to the candidates and all expressed interest in and support for that work.

The Nominating Committee discussed the qualifications of the four applicants.

The Nominating Committee thought that the incumbent, currently an alternate, should be nominated for a regular place on the Commission.

Of the other three candidates, the first seemed least suited for the Commission, given her focus on city/county issues and lack of preparation on the law. Her responses were not always as on point as the other candidates. The Nominating Committee will not recommend her for appointment.

The committee slightly preferred candidate 2 over candidate 4, so will recommend that 2 be given a regular appointment and 4 be appointed as alternate.

These recommendations were unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Rhoderick, Chair
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