

Ethics Commission Nominating Committee
Minutes for the Public Meeting on March 12, 2018

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

The meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission Nominating Committee began at 6:30 p.m. on March 12, 2018 in the Alumnae Hall Conference room, Hood College. This was the first meeting of the committee as formalized legislatively in May 2017.

I. The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

Ms. Rhoderick reminded the committee that its proceedings are now subject to Maryland open meetings requirements.

The committee discussed future meeting locations, preferably more accessible. Ms. Rhoderick will follow up on this.

II. The committee reviewed the current procedure for soliciting, interviewing, and recommending nominees to the County Executive; they feel the process is working well.

III. Vote to meet in closed session.

MOTION: Dr. Smith moved at 6:44 p.m. that the committee meet in a closed session to interview candidates for the Ethics Commission. Mr. Greene 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"

IV. MOTION: Dr. Smith moved to go back into public session at 8:07 p.m. Mr. Greene seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

V. Discussion of candidates

Candidate 1, an incumbent, stated he'd like to stay on the Commission as the work is challenging and important. He made some suggestions about clarifying and carefully articulating Commission policies and procedures. Mr. Heller, Commission representative, felt that the candidate had worked well as part of the Commission.

Candidate 2, also an incumbent, stated she'd learned a lot during her first term and was now able to contribute more to the Commission proceedings. She was eager to continue to serve and has been a productive member, per Mr. Heller.

Candidate 3, a new applicant, is a member of the local clergy, moved to Frederick quite recently, and has decided this is how he'd like to become involved in the local community. His responses indicated he'd reviewed the current law. He has business experience as well as pastoral experience, and is a trained mediator. He was knowledgeable about the role of ethics legislation, and the limits of the Commission. He assured the committee that he would have time for this work is appointed.

Candidate 4, also a new applicant, is an attorney whose work for an insurance company involves identifying and resolving conflicts of interest. In her current position she trains insurance adjusters and other new hires on ethics. She had not been able to find the current County Ethics Law online and so did not have specific comments on it.

The committee discussed the qualifications of the four interviewees. They agreed that the incumbents are doing a good job, as attested by Mr. Heller, the Ethics Commission representative on the committee, and that their experience will be beneficial to the Commission.

Of the two new candidates, the Committee thought the skills and experience of Candidate 3 outweighed those of Candidate 4, although the Committee would welcome more women and minorities on the Commission. However, Candidate 4 is an attorney, and there are already several attorneys on the Commission, as well as legal assistance from the County Attorney's office. There are no clergy on the Commission and Candidate 3 would add that representation. He also demonstrated understanding of the Ethics Law.

The committee decided to vote on each candidate individually. In each case Dr. Smith moved, and Mr. Heller seconded, the motion.

Recommendation of the two incumbents was unanimously approved,
Recommendation of Candidate 3 was approved unanimously following Mr. Mann's reconsideration of his initial preference for Candidate 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

Betty Mayfield
Recorder
Frederick County League of Women Voters