

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
APRIL 22, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Attorney William Fitzgerald, Chairman;
Reverend Raymond Dancy, Jim DelGreco, Elizabeth
Broncati.

STAFF: Attorney Robert Maslan, Corporation Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and stated that the members as listed above were in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DelGreco noted that Ms. Allen's name was listed as the person who motioned to adjourn and it should be corrected to Ms. Broncati.

** MR. DELGRECO MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
FROM THE MARCH 25, 2010 MEETING AS AMENDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business

Atty. Fitzgerald asked Mr. DelGreco to review the tasks on the agenda.

Mr. DelGreco stated that there was an e-mail from Barbara that outlined the terms of the members as follows:

Ms. Broncati:	03/10/2012
Mr. DelGreco:	03/10/2011
Attorney Fitzgerald:	03/10/2011
Rev. Dancy:	03/10/2012
Dr. Stabinsky	03/10/2012

Mr. DelGreco stated that any future replacements should be unaffiliated.

Mr. DelGreco asked to review the recommended adjustments to the City of Norwalk Code of Ethics and referred to the following:

Definition of "Hearing Board":

- Page 2: in the event of a conflict the Common Council shall appoint a City official, should be neutral and should be an elected official of the City of Norwalk. Ms. Broncati stated that she feared that it implied that if there was a conflict it could not be resolved depending upon the make-up of the group.
- Mr. Maslan referred to page 8 where it lists that the Board picks someone to fill a vacancy. After much discussion, the following wording was approved and incorporated into the revised code by Ms. Broncati:

In the event of a conflict, where a regular or alternative member of the Board of Ethics is unable to service on the investigative panel or hearing board, the Board of Ethics may appoint an elector of the City of Norwalk to serve on that panel for the particular complaint. This is a temporary filling of vacancy and is limited to that particular complaint.
- 32-9 G: After much discussion, Attorney Maslan recommended this point be left as it appears in the code.
- 32-11 B. Attn. Fitzgerald stated that at the investigative stage, if everything is confidential, and how do we word this section, when they need to make the replacement if there is a conflict. Attorney Maslan suggested that the state language be used from section of 1.84 of the CT statutes. Following much discussion, Mr. DelGreco asked Attny. Fitzgerald to continue to work on this independently and bring his recommended changes for discussion in May.
- 32-12, C (2) (a) {2} Proposed modifications were presented and discussed, and revised wording was incorporated into the recommended changes by Ms. Broncati.

Rev. Dancy asked what happens if there is a confidentiality leak, and Attorney Maslan responded that this was a very good question, and that up until the finding of probable cause, the Board enters the preceding as confidential, unless otherwise noted.

The following tasks were agreed upon for completion at next month's meeting:

- Attorney Fitzgerald will begin working on the annual report to the Council which is due by June 1 and will incorporate our suggested changes to the Code for the Common Council to review.
- Ms. Broncati will draft and present suggestions on how to expand the Citizens' Guide to the Code of Ethics communication to all who work for, volunteer for and interact with the City of Norwalk. She suggested this be handled with City Department Heads at Mayor's meetings, and

distributed to new employee packets and employee bulletin boards by the Human Resources Department, as this is important to satisfy the “educational” aspect of the Board’s work.

- Rev. Dancy will contact the head of the State Ethics Dept to find out when the representative (name/contact information to be provided by Ms. Broncati) can come to Norwalk to assist with the City’s annual “ethics education program”.
- Attorney Fitzgerald asked Rev. Dancy to look at the code with his “fresh eyes” as he is a new member and can bring this valuable perspective to the group.
- Attorney Maslan will ask the Common Council what progress they have made appointing an unaffiliated member to the Board.
- Ms. Broncati suggested that members should review each section and email comments on how to change the wording to make it clear and more succinct, we will submit the changes to the Common Council for review.

New Business

Atty. Fitzgerald stated that the next meeting would be May 20, 2010 at 6:45 p.m.

Adjournment

- ** MS. BRONCATI MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.
- ** MR. DELGRECO SECONDED
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services