

Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2020, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Committee members: Marc Efron, Debbie Roumell, Lorie Mitchell

Council Members: Todd Mann (liaison), Jeff Blander

Village Manager: Niles Anderegg

Resident: Jean Sperling

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Election of officers to serve through the first quarter: Marc Efron, chair; Debbie Roumell, vice chair/secretary; Lorie Mitchell, secretary/vice chair.

Introduction and review of committee responsibilities as detailed in Chapters Two and Four of the VMA code and VMA policy no. 2019-10-3 (including Resolution to Adopt the same and attached Oaths and Conflict- of-Interest Questionnaire).

Actions:

The committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Council to consider a resolution requiring that all Council and Committee members be required to sign an Oath of Office and complete a COI statement annually, to the extent this is not already required, see Code section 4-201(e). Further, the committee proposes that the resolution extend the Oath and COI requirement to include all individuals or groups who work on behalf of the village.

Council liaison Todd Mann suggested the need for a broader role for the committee to address ethical concerns outside the committee's current authority. The committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Council to consider a resolution to expand the jurisdiction of the committee to include ethical issues relating to the Oath of Office statement, adhering to the processes mandated in Chapter 4 of the VMA code.

Resident comments: Jean Sperling asked the committee to consider its obligation to the VMA community to protect residents against false allegations and maintain confidentiality in any matter raised to the committee. Speaking for the committee, Marc Efron assured Ms. Sperling that, with respect to matters brought to its attention, the committee would adhere to the confidentiality rules established in Chapter 4 of the VMA code designed to protect the reputation of individuals.

The committee agreed to meet every six weeks, with the date of the next meeting TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

