

**CITY OF SPOKANE  
ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2017 MEETING**

Dennis Cronin commenced the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Present are Chair, Dennis Cronin, Sarah O'Hare, and Brian Steverson. Commission Counsel, Michael Piccolo, is also present.

The agenda for the meeting is reviewed and Dennis asks if there is a motion to amend the order of the agenda, deleting items E & F. Brian so moves and Sarah seconds. All are in Favor. Agenda, as amended, is approved.

The Minutes from the June 14, 2017 meeting are reviewed. Brian moves to approve the minutes, as amended with his last name corrected from "Schaeffer" to Steverson. That modification is approved and will be made. Minutes unanimously approved with that modification.

NICOLE MOORE

The members meet with Nicole Moore (she prefers "Nicky") and review her application to the Commission. Sarah states she works at GU. She states she loves her job and works with lovely people.

Her largest "ethics" involvement is currently academically related with issues such as plagiarizing, false data, etc. as it is in relation to science. She questions if a project has a good "end", which can be debatable, such as weapons for example. She would not work with weapons, personally.

She served on the Board of the Junior League, a training organization for women. There, she learned how to fund raise and how to run projects. Her focus is regional literacy. She states she is bad at asking people for money, so she never does campaign activities.

Brian asks Nicole if she has reviewed the Ethics Commission's work and she said she had. She states she has never dealt with issues of moral turpitude exactly.

Nicole states she ran to be on the Honor Board- but never made it. She had dealings with student issues – like someone had set a banister on fire, for example.

She states she likes to come at things with trust. She gives take home tests without limit and open book with a focus on trust.

She states she has a subscription to the Spokesman, but doesn't read the articles.

Dennis asks Nicole if she has a conflict for her work on the commission serving with Brian Steverson who also works for GU and she states she doesn't think so. Dennis notes there is some public interest in what the Commission members do and what the members and who they are. Journalists investigate the EC members, and Dennis asks what are Nicole's

thoughts about that possibility. Nicole states she would prefer to not be in the paper. Dennis states, for example, the Commission was in the Inlander with a profile of a member. How would that strike her? Nicole said, for her, it was she could not stand seeing three vacancies on the Commission because she feels these spots should be filled. If not her, that's okay, but she thinks Ethics in government is essential.

Mike Piccolo explains the process of member selection and tell her they will notify her of the Commission's decisions.

### KURTIS ROBINSON

Dennis introduces everyone after meeting Mr. Robinson. Brian commends Mr. Robinson for all his work for the community.

His experience has come from many places, living on a fast track, but he sees a movement going on now with people working and how to work at these things planted where they are. Accountability has been the most important aspect of his work. The opportunity to shift from punitive to a corrective response with people is always his goal. He has been a wild fire firefighter for eight years and is always evaluating his paramilitary skills. He does not just review the facts, but also what is pertinent.

Sarah states she notes he comes from an amazing background of community activism. She asks Kurtis if he has reviewed the Ethics Code and he states the he had scanned it, but not delved into it. He states he believes in coming into things with no bias and to be the change we want to see. He prefers a restorative perspective so he goes in to things with no bias. He states everyone should try to approach things without bias, or recognize their bias and deal with it accordingly to move toward justice – to be the change we need to see.

Sarah notes he is with the NAACP and asks if there would there be anything political for him with that and he states it is not political for him – no violation of 501c3 or 4.

Dennis states he wants to follow up on the NAACP issues. The Commission's work must follow their code, taking into account the code, punishment, procedure, and it may not have that restorative effect he seeks. How would that be for him? Kurtis states he can be fair in his review.

Brian notes he is extremely busy and the Commission has quarterly meetings. Would Kurtis have the time to commit to it? Kurtis states he,"pours it all out" and every limit he expands the ceiling.

Dennis states he knows Kurtis. Dennis is a member of the NAACP too and he has represented Mohammed Farrakhan. He feels however there is no conflict with these issues, but asks if Kurtis agrees and Kurtis states he does not think that is a conflict at all - for him.

The interview is then concluded and the members discuss the applicants.

Brian states that Nicole Moore would bring an analytical mindset that would be good. He has no concern over her. But, regarding Kurtis, he is concerned, that the Commission is charged with a job like this and, even though he may not like the decisions, he can make them his motive. There may be occasions arising where he would have to recuse himself and also he is concerned about his time/availability. Brian states he has no direct relation to Nicole Moore and has no conflict there in his opinion.

Dennis asks if there is a motion and Brian moves that the Commission move forward with both applicants. Sarah seconds that Motion, stating she is happy to see Nicole is a scientist, with an analytical mind who will look at things entirely differently.

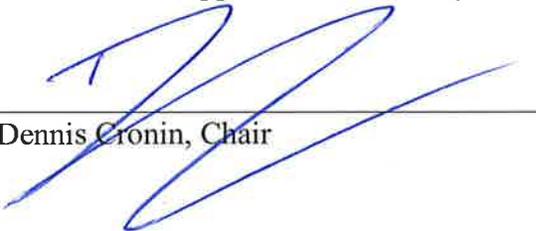
All approve and Mike states he will forward both candidates to the Mayor for review.

The next item on the agenda is the approval of Ellie Brown working for the Prosecutor's office to help them transition to a new employee after her unexpected retirement. Dennis ask if there is any objection to the approval and no one objects. Brian notes that he is happy to see this kind of approval request, because this is exactly the situation of what a "come back after quitting" situation looks like that is fair and a good thing for the City.

All approve. Motion to approve Ellie Brown's limited continued work is unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July:



---

Dennis Cronin, Chair