Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X  Chair Ms. Rhonda Smiley
X  Member Ms. Mary Ann Slattery
X  Member Mr. J. Anthony Snorgrass
X  Member Mr. John Zawacki
X  Member Mr. Gilbert Castro
X  Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present)  
E (Excused)  
U (Unexcused)  

Call to Order:

Chairperson Rhonda Smiley called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners Slattery, Snorgrass, Zawacki and Castro were present.

Old Business:

Minutes of the March 13, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Corrections to the Minutes were provided and Motion to Approve the Minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Snorgrass with a second by Commissioner Zawacki.

Upon further consideration by the Commission it was decided that Administrator Benien would continue to prepare the minutes from notes taken by her at the meetings and forward a copy for review by the Commission prior to the meetings.

Administrator Benien reviewed the monthly report with the Commission which outlined the training provided in March, 2008 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered.
In summary, one Basic Ethics training session was provided on March 3, 2008 to seventeen members of the Zoning & Planning and Landmarks Boards. On March 6, 2008 Basic Ethics training was provided to approximately 12 new recruits with the Fire Department. On March 14, 2008 a Continuing Eduations session was provided for the Sheriff’s Department and on March 18, 2008, Continuing Education was provided to approximately 20 employees of the Health Department. Final totals for March, 2008 training were not available. Second Quarter Ethics training has been scheduled. A Basic Ethics session is scheduled for May 15, 2008 in the Human Resources Conference Room. Continuing Ethics training sessions are scheduled for April 15, 2008 at the Sheriff’s Department, May 15, 2008 in the Human Resources Conference Room and June 11, 2008 at the Health Department. Five verbal opinions and one written opinion were provided by the Ethics Administrator during March, 2008.

With respect to one of the Advisory Opinions issued by the Ethics Administrator with respect to employee attendance at casinos during work hours the Ethics Code was reviewed and it was determined there is no existing prohibition for UG representatives who happen to be in uniform to be at a casino on their own time. It was suggested that with respect to any opinions issued, the relevant section of the Ethics Code should be cited.

It was also suggested by Commissioner Slattery that the Ethics Administrator should review the Human Resources Departments Personnel manual so as to know what it allowed and disallowed and to ask to be provided with copies of any distribution made by Human Resources that related to conduct of employees.

Administrator Benien advised that she was still in the process of determining the current status of various contact and communications with respect to the ANDA/NBR funds and to that end Chairperson Smiley and she had a conference call with former Ethics Administrator Frederickson. In order for the Commission to better understand any legal issues involved, it was requested that the Ethics Administrator request a member of the UG’s legal department to attend the next Commission meeting.

The status of the updates and revisions to the Ethics Code were reviewed. Administrator Benien has not been able to complete that process. Chairperson Smiley agreed to provide a redlined version of the revisions to facilitate the process.

Administrator Benien advised that a meeting has been scheduled for April 9, 2008 with respect to the complaint by an employee of the UG at the February, 2008 meeting upon which the Commission had requested follow-up.

With respect to attendance at the Commission meetings, it was discussed and agreed that the current system of marking a member as present, excused or unexcused would be continued. To make administration of the system more efficient it was agreed that the Ethics Administrator would serve as the contact person for a member needing to be excused.
New Business:

Administrator Benien advised that due to the increased costs of rewriting the training materials, increased training and an election year cycle, she was going to prepare a budgetary request for additional funds for 2008. She also advised that she would be submitting a proposed 2009 budget for the Ethics Commission in April, 2008 to the Legislative Auditor’s Office for review and approval.

Given the upcoming elections and the issues with respect to the selection of a casino site in Wyandotte County, Administrator Benien was asked to prepare a memorandum setting forth allowed and prohibited conduct for employees and officials with respect to the same.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Zawacki

Seconded by Commissioner Slattery

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next Meeting May 1, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien_____

Ruth M. Benien
Ethics Administrator