Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Chair Ms. Rhonda Smiley
X Member Ms. Mary Ann Slattery
E 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 Smiley called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. Commissioners Slattery, Zawacki and Castro were present. Commissioner Snorgrass was absent but excused.

Public Comment: No members of the public appeared for the public comment session.

Old Business:

Minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. A Motion to Approve the Minutes as corrected was made by Commissioner Slattery with a second by Commissioner Zawacki. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Benien reviewed the monthly report with the Commission which outlined the training provided in March, 2009 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.
Continuing Ethics training was provided on March 19 and March 31, 2009 for the Water Pollution Control Department from 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. A Continuing Ethics training session was held at the Human Resources Training Center on March 11, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. A Basic Ethics training session was provided at the Health Department on March 19, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Twelve new ethics complaints were received. One complaint was not under the Code of Ethics jurisdiction and closed. A file was opened on the other eleven and the matters are pending. One e-mail request and one telephone request for information were received and responded to. Twenty four complaints are pending and seven requests for advisory opinion are outstanding. One request for written advisory opinion was closed as moot. Four complaints were closed.

A Motion to Approve the Monthly Report of the Ethics Administrator as amended was made by Commissioner Zawacki with a second by Commissioner Castro. The Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Benien distributed redacted copies of three written advisory opinions from February, 2009 and one from March, 2009. She also distributed copies of a Clarification Memorandum prepared by her with respect to the upcoming April 7, 2009 election which was distributed to all employees and UG officials. She distributed materials with respect to previous treatment of violations of the $25.00 campaign contribution limits and advised of the process to be followed with respect to the same during the current election cycle.

The status of the updates and revisions to the Ethics Code was reviewed. Administrator Benien is preparing a summary of the changes to each section. The increased number of complaints and advisory opinions and the February-April election cycle has delayed that process.

Kenneth Moore from the UG legal department appeared to provide the Commission with a legal opinion as to the recording of all or a portion of the meetings, and, if so, what portions. No further action was taken and no motion was made with respect to the issue.

New Business:

Kenneth Moore from the UG legal department appeared to discuss and provide additional information and background on his request to the UG Ethics Administrator for the provision of a written advisory opinion as to whether receipt of NSP funds available from the federal government by a neighborhood development association would violate the UG Ethics Code. Administrator Benien is to draft an opinion with respect to the same in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.
Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Zawacki.

Seconded by Commissioner Castro.

Passed Unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 7, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien
Ethics Administrator