Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Chair Ms. Tami Schademann
X Member Ms. Dana Rank Bye
X Member Ms. Pat Brune
E Member Mr. George Kemper
X Member Anthony Villegas
X Ruth Benien, Administrator

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

Call to Order:

Chairperson Schademann called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Commissioners Rank-Bye, Brune and Villegas were present. Commissioner Kemper was absent but excused. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: One UG citizen appeared to request information about the ethics complaint process.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

Proposed Minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Brune and seconded by Commissioner Rank-Bye. The motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator’s Report:
Administrator Benien provided the March, 2014 monthly report which outlined the training provided in March, 2014 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

Continuing Ethics training for the three UG Commissioners needing to complete such training will be scheduled in the next few months. The training sessions for the first and second quarters are being scheduled with Angela Harshberger who has replaced Gail Bragg. Basic Ethics training is scheduled for May 15, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Training room. Continuing Ethics training is scheduled for June 12, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center. A Continuing Ethics training session was held for members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Landmarks Commission on April 5, 2014 at the Neighborhood Resource Center. The Ethics Administrator has been contacted with respect to scheduling ethics training for the sheriff and fire department starting in April and May, 2014.

In February, 2014 – March, 2014 one telephone complaints, five email complaints and seven verbal complaints were received. Six hotline complaints and one email complaint were received with respect to support for an elected official but not conduct for which sanction was issued. Eighteen complaints are pending awaiting investigation, under investigation or determination. Sixteen complaints were closed with violation found and a Second Letter of Public Censure issued and referral to the District Attorney was made. Three complaints were closed for lack of jurisdiction. One complaint was closed and referred as an operational issue. Three new email request for advisory opinion and five verbal requests for advisory opinions were received. One written advisory opinion was issued and three verbal requests were provided and closed. Nine advisory opinion requests are pending. One request for ethics presentation or training for a handicapped employee is pending. One Request for Information was received and provided. One Request for Information is pending.

The Administrator’s report was accepted as presented for February – March, 2014.

New Business:

Discussion was had with respect to proposed ethics amendments and a general consensus that an attempt should be made to review the UG Ethics Code in its entirety and make requests for changes and amendments globally. To assist in doing so Administrator Benien was requested to break review of the UG Ethics Code up into sections and distribute to the UG Ethics Commissioners at the next meeting.

UG Ethics Commissioners were advised that a Special Session of the UG Commission is scheduled for April 10, 2014 with discussion of the Ethics Commission and Ethics Code. Commissioners Rank Bye and Brune indicated they would attend.

Executive Session:
No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Brune.

Seconded by Commissioner Villegas.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 1, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien
UG Ethics Administrator