

Grand Jurors Association of Orange County

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2015

Call to Order: President John Moohr called the meeting to order at 1000.

Absent: Lynn Bonas, Carol Duensing.

New Business:

Meeting called to discuss Shirley Grindel's proposed "Ethics Commission" Ordinance.

Before going over the 14 page Draft Proposal, general business items were covered. John Moohr thanked Helen and Virginia for the Grand Jury and Association mixer. Fred indicated that the Education Committee meets monthly and Roy indicated the TIC is down to three members. Next meeting is at Original Mikes on Thursday, 16 July at 1130. Joe Quiros stated we still need a September luncheon speaker(s). Bill indicated he would give weekly updates on the newsletter, starting on Friday, 31 July.

John asked for the Board's input on the Draft Ethics Commission provided by Shirley and Dave Baker.

Virginia: Questioned length of commissioner's terms: BOS involvement; No mention of districts and basically, "we do not need another layer of government".

Carol Morales: Gallant effort, not well written.

Joe: No input.

Robin: Lot of unknowns, where is the \$\$ coming from? Finding 3 past GJ Forepersons.

John: Went thru the proposed draft and highlighted several areas for discussion. Too much power in the CEO; County Counsel reports to the BOS; Too many ordinances to monitor and enforce; Staffing.

Stuart: Not a bad draft, needs work; Will need to change our By Laws to manage this proposal; Spell out compensation (\$300,000 is not enough); A whistle blower hot line 24/7 is costly; All county costs will go against the Commission's budget.

Bill: Pointed the Board to the accompanying Press Release for the various authors. Draft well written but flawed structurally; Not an independent commission-part of OC staff; Keep an independent role (GJAOC) similar to LACO.

Roy: Three former GJ Foremen? Too much work for too long a period for five people who do not get paid; Not independent of BOS; There are agencies out there doing what this commission proposes to do; Use the GJ which is in place and empowered to investigate; Roy cited a 2014-15 GJ report on ethics that got no response from the county; DA is an elected official (6 times) and not a reliable source to enforce ethics.

Helen: Read once; Too much work for too few people with very little money; Likes the idea of an Ethics Commission.

Fred: Draft ordinance is to take over Shirley' volunteer work; No purpose in proposed document; BOS funded, "no way"; The flow chart does not help; Fred likes Roy's idea of the GJ as a proven system;

Open Vote: John read a letter sent in by Carol Duensing stating she was not in favor of the proposal. Shirley wants to put on the ballot with or without our blessing. She is working with Supervisor Todd Spitzer to get three counsel votes to put on the ballot.

Bill to work on a response letter to Shirley requesting a meeting with her and Dave Baker to discuss our concerns.

At 1130 Bill moved and Joe 2nd we recommend Sec. 100 (c) 1&2 be removed from the draft. Vote unanimous in favor of removal.

Fred moved we adjourn at 1150.

Next meeting at 1000 a.m. at OCCU 6 August 2015