

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

A special meeting of the Local Ethics Commission was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chair Daley(Virtual,) Commissioner Ignoffo, and Commissioner DeGroff.  
Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst Luke Masella, Village Attorney Lance Malina

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ignoffo to allow Chair Daley to participate virtually. Seconded by Commissioner DeGroff.

AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo and Commissioner DeGroff.  
NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**II. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Margie Cekander made a public comment regarding a recent Ethics Complaint she filed, highlighting concerns about the process. She requested that residents be notified of upcoming Ethics Commission meetings and asked to be added to the notification list. Ms. Cekander proposed expanding the Commission's jurisdiction to include additional areas for review. She emphasized that the Ethics Commission should allow for anonymous complaints, as her recent submission was not treated as such. Ms. Cekander also requested an explanation of how the revised ethics code and process were developed, expressing dissatisfaction with the current system and suggesting the Commission review the code from a resident's perspective to better understand the challenges faced by individuals filing complaints.

Phyllis Rubin addressed the Commission, pointing out that her first name was misspelled in the most recent meeting minutes. She then urged the Commission to consider adopting the ability to review complaints related to conflicts of interest. Ms. Rubin emphasized that it is the Commission's responsibility to ensure the Village operates according to the highest and strictest ethical standards.

Corey Gimbel made a public comment regarding the most recent ethics complaint filed with the Commission. Mr. Gimbel expressed concern over the Village Board's decision to vote against further investigation of the complaint. He also voiced his frustration that the Ethics Commission does not have jurisdiction over complaints related to conflicts of interest.

Chair Daley thanked the residents for their participation and expressed appreciation for their dedication.

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**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2025.**

Village Attorney Malina stated that the minutes can be approved, with the correction to the resident's name included.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeGroff and SECONDED by Commissioner Ignoffo to approve the meeting minutes of the January 31st, 2025, meeting of the Local Ethics Commission with the correct spelling.

AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo and Chair Daley, Commissioner DeGroff.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.

Motion Passes.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion and Potential Recommendation on Amendments to the Village's Ethics Ordinance.

Chair Daley provided a background on the formation of the Ethics Commission and the creation of the Ethics Ordinance. She expressed surprise that the Commission did not have jurisdiction over conflicts of interest complaints and offered an explanation of how this situation may have arisen.

Commissioner Ignoffo echoed the same comments as Chair Daley.

The Commission, along with Village Administrator Walsh and Village Attorney Malina, reviewed a redlined copy of the Commission's ordinance, making revisions to the ordinance. A new draft ordinance was created and will be reviewed and potentially updated at the next meeting. The Commission focused on refining the language to better align with their existing powers, while also incorporating updates to address the requested powers for reviewing conflicts of interest. Additional changes were made to strengthen the anonymity of complainants and improve the process for the public to file complaints.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ignoffo and SECONDED by Commissioner DeGroff to adjourn the February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting of the Local Ethics Commission at 7:25 p.m.

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AYES: Commissioner Ignoffo, Commissioner DeGroff, and Chair Daley.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Approved.



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Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

3/6/25

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Date