



City Commission Fact Finding Subcommittee Minutes

12/12/2023 - Minutes

Call to Order

Commissioner Cleary called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM on December 12, 2023. Members present included Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Connelly, and Gordy Smith. Also present were Whitnie Olsen, Jason Tomanek, and Leanne Schmidt with the City of Bismarck and Attorney Amy Oster with Crowley Fleck.

1. Discussion regarding legal opinion received from outside council.

Commissioner Cleary asked Attorney Oster what steps need to be taken by committee members to protect the anonymity of Event Center staff who wish to discuss the business and operations at the Event Center with a committee member. Attorney Oster indicated that names could remain private as long as there is no written record of their names or other identifying information. Attorney Oster continued noting that if the matter were to go to court, those individuals could be subpoenaed, which would relinquish their anonymity. Attorney Oster's recommendation would be to direct committee member Smith to conduct interviews to avoid a potential serial City Commission meeting. The committee designated Mr. Smith to conduct interviews with Event Center staff in the coming weeks. Mr. Smith requested an Event Center organizational chart to include where employees fall on that chart, their contact information, and tenure of each employee. The committee agreed that Commissioners Connelly and Cleary will focus their reviews on Event Center contracts and policies.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

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