

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

A meeting of the Government Law Section was called to order by Chair Mills on January 8, 2022, at 10:03 a.m.

I. ATTENDANCE and EXCUSED ABSENCES

Present: Bluhm, Brown, Fisher, Forbush, Forsyth, Joppich, King, Mills, Mithani, Mullhaupt, Nettleton, Rosati, Sluggett, So, Tamm, Walling, Williams, Zeits
Also Present: Sean Rucker
Absent: Kolb and Watza

Motion to Excuse Absences: Fisher Support: Mullhaupt
Council approved by unanimous vote

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Approve Agenda: Nettleton Support: Bluhm
Council approved by unanimous vote

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve Minutes of December 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting: Williams
Support: Bluhm
Council approved by unanimous vote.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Forbush advised Council members that 2021 was a good year. The section ended the year with a fund balance of \$72,562.59. This is a \$20,000 increase when compared to the 2020 fund balance of \$52,773.67

Outstanding expenses include catering and space rental for the Winter seminar, and the amount of \$6,947.50 for preparing and filing an amicus brief in the *Peterson* case.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

a. 2022 Summer Conference – Mithani informed members of conference ideas developed with MAMA representative Vince Duckworth. These ideas center around DEI training with two possible agendas:

1. One agenda discussed includes engaging national speaker Kimberly Papillon who would provide implicit bias training on day one. Day two would be focused on a panel discussion on in-house ethics issues with implementation of DEI policies moderated by Michelle Crockett with Miller

Canfield. There also would be a Michigan Supreme Court Justice presentation on day one and a SCOTUS presentation on day two. Mithani indicated that Ms. Papillon's speaking fee is \$10,000. This far exceeds seminar spending policies of both GLS and MAMA.

2. An alternative agenda would be – still focused on DEI but with local speakers and no DEI ethics panel discussion in order to reduce cost.

Members discussed options at length with a consensus to focus summer conference on DEI. There were also comments on expanding invitation to summer conference to attorneys who are not section members, and local government officials. Various members are willing to inquire about sponsorship and funding from respective law firms and other organizations in order to raise funds for Ms. Papillon's speaking fee. Mithani will follow up with an email to those member willing to inquire about sponsorships

Mithani then left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

- b. **Amicus Invitation: *TPOAM v. Daniel Lee Renner*.** Williams advised members that he has talked to John Runyan who chairs the Labor and Employment Section to determine if GLS has an interest in participating in this case. Williams advised that based on his discussion with Runyan, this case could have significant impacts on collective bargaining in the public sector. GLS could participate based on these impacts, but the parties in the litigation have advised Williams that GLS should not participate. Williams to consider this matter further and report back to the Council. He also indicated that draft guidelines and an application for amicus requests to GLS is still a work in progress.
- c. **Winter Seminar.** Co-Chair Joppich provided the following update:
 1. The first eblast is scheduled for next week with more to follow through end of January.
 2. Eblasts will ask attendees to select attendance selection between in person and virtual, which will help determine catering needs.
 3. The location of the after-seminar council meeting is still being finalized
 4. Joppich provided an overview of the agenda, which is close to being finalized with several speakers being confirmed. The following issues with the agenda were discussed by members:
 1. Mullhaupt will continue to identify and confirm speakers on the Right to Farm Act topic. She also suggested a new title for this presentation. Members agreeing to the suggestion.
 2. Joppich to confirm with the Attorney General that Asst. A.G. George Elworth can give a presentation on preemption. Joppich to also confirm Elmeka Steele with Wayne County as a presenter at the seminar.
 3. Fisher suggested having a lobbyist with MTA give a lunch presentation regarding local control related legislation. Members discussed this matter at length and consensus was that such a presentation should be a stand alone webinar or seminar.

Williams left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

4. Members then discussed ARPA and an attempt to narrow this topic as well as confirm attendance of potential speakers.
5. Joppich told members that masks will be mandator at the seminar.

Sluggett left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None presented

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **GLS Briefly Editor:** Sean Rucker (co-editor of *Briefly*) advised that the January edition will have three articles focused on election issues. McGee has volunteered to write one article. Rucker indicated that another article could be about the Michigan Redistricting Committee.
- b. **Membership and Social Media Committees:** No report at this time.

Zeits left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE – Mills gave members a report on the State Bar section advertisement. GLS will advertise the new mission statement. Mills also updated members on the request for comments on a proposed amendment to MRPC 1.8.

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Brown asked members about virtual meetings and if such would be permitted under a future OMA amendment. So indicated that there is an effort by the Governor’s office to develop a comprehensive approach to permitting virtual meetings. Walling advised members that she retired from the City of Dearborn and now is working for Johnson Rosati Schultz an Joppich

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mills Declared the Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

Minutes taken by Forsyth