

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

via Zoom

A meeting of the Government Law Section was called to order by Chair Mills on March 5, 2022, at 10:02 a.m.

**I. ATTENDANCE and EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**Present: Bluhm, Brown, Fisher, Forbush, Forsyth, Joppich, King, Kolb, Mills, McGee, Mithani, So, Walling**

**Also Present: Jacob Fox**

**Absent: Mullhaupt, Nettleton, Rosati, Sluggett, Tamm, Watza, Williams, Zeits**

**Motion to Excuse Absences: Walling  
Council approved by unanimous vote**

**Support: Fisher**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to Approve Agenda: Fisher  
Council approved by unanimous vote**

**Support: Mithani**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to Approve Corrected Minutes of the February 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting: Kolb  
Council approved by unanimous vote**

**Support: Fisher**

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Forbush provided the following information for Council members:

1. Prior to the Winter Seminar, there was \$79,000 in the Section's account
2. After all expenses paid for the Winter Seminar and amicus participation in the *Peterson* Case, there is currently \$72,250.22 in the account
3. Although GLS did not break even for the Winter Seminar, we did better financially compared to prior years

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Amicus Invitation:** Fisher informed members that the Court of Appeals decision in *Pegasus v Tuscola County* is an important land use decision that members should consider filing an amicus brief if the case is appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court.
- b. GLS Briefly editor:** Fox discussed the upcoming March issue, which would include a legislation update, Marihuana competitive review cases, and other articles.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. **2022 Joint Summer Conference** – Mithani and other members provided updates on the following related to the Joint Summer Conference:

1. The DEI panel for the Saturday session is now set for two hours and all panel participants have confirmed attendance.
2. Kimberly Papillon’s costs have increased to \$11,200 plus a room reservation. Cost increase is due to Covid-19 restrictions.
3. \$6,200 has been raised in sponsorships, including a grant from Traverse City Rotary Charities.
4. Forsyth indicated that grant requests are still being looked at by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation and Traverse Connect, the Region’s Economic Development Organization.

(King left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.)

5. Members discussed the importance of having an outside speaker give a presentation on DEI. Members also spoke favorably of Kimberly Papillon. **Motion was made to have GLS cover Kimberly Papillon’s costs that are not covered by sponsorships.**  
Walling **Support:** Mithani  
**Council approved by unanimous vote.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS** – Kolb informed members that GLS did not ask the Winter Seminar attendees to complete a survey. Members discussed using a survey in the future for both the Winter Seminar and Joint Summer Conference.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE** – The State Bar is seeking comments on H.B. 5759. This bill would permit electronic notary or remote notary. Members did not provide comment.

**IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS** –

1. Bluhm brought up two matters. First, the Michigan Court of Appeals decision in *Pegasus v Tuscola County* will create confusion over the proper standards for ZBAs to review dimensional variances. Second, Eric Eisett with IMLA is seeking amicus participation or assistance in the 6<sup>th</sup> case, *Knight v Nashville*, a case that impacts a local unit of government’s ability to fund sidewalk improvements.
2. Mithani asked Members for suggested names for the 2022 Joint Summer Conference.
3. Forsyth informed members of H.B. 5054, which would provide grants to local units that are dealing with unfunded pension liabilities.
4. Mills asked members to provide her with advanced notice of attendance for the April meeting as it is around the time set for spring break.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mills declared the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes taken by Forsyth

DRAFT