

<b>MINUTES</b>	Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.	 CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
Board of Ethics Meeting	Commission Room 1st Floor ~ City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Gednalske, Greg LaFollette (by phone), Jack Marsh and Sue Roust

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wanda Harris

**STAFF PRESENT:** Stacy Kooistra, City Attorney, and Cari Hanzel, Recording Clerk

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jack Marsh at 4:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Sue Roust and seconded by Jeff Gednalske to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 25, 2019, which included Advisory Opinion 19-2 previously approved and signed by the Board Chair on behalf of the Board. Vote to approve: 4 Yeses. Motion passed.

**BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**

1. REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 19-3 FILED JUNE 24, 2019.

Jack Marsh introduced Request for Advisory Opinion 19-3 submitted by Jeff Eckhoff, Director of Planning and Development Services for the City of Sioux Falls.

Mr. Eckhoff appeared before the Board and was sworn in.

Mr. Eckhoff explained that he has been a member of Xcel Energy’s South Dakota Advisory Board for the past 8-9 years and wondered if it would be a conflict of interest for him to continue on the Board now that he is the Director of Planning and Development Services for the City of Sioux Falls.

Mr. Eckhoff explained that the purpose of the Advisory Board is to inform and educate business, education and government leaders on the operations of Xcel Energy.

Mr. Eckhoff further explained that service on the Board entails attending meetings generally twice a year, once in Minneapolis and the other usually in Sioux Falls. Xcel Energy pays for all travel and meal expenses and provides a stipend for attendance. Mr. Eckhoff indicated he would decline the stipend if he were to continue to serve on the Board.

Board members questioned Mr. Eckhoff regarding compensation, the intent of the Advisory Board, maintaining confidentiality, the relationship of Xcel Energy and the City of Sioux Falls and what Mr. Eckhoff's role as Director of Planning and Development Services is in that relationship.

Mr. Eckhoff advised the Board about potential conflicts he could foresee if he were to continue to serve on the Advisory Board and discussed the difficulty in recusing himself due to his role as Director.

Stacy Kooistra advised the Board on the pertinent ordinances and previous Board opinions they should consider and what the Board would need to determine as they discussed the Request for Advisory Opinion.

Further discussion was held by the Board.

Mr. Eckhoff advised the Board that he didn't think there was anything improper in his continued service on the Advisory Board but he was concerned with the public perception. The public's perception is very important to the reputation of the City and to him personally and not something he would want to jeopardize to continue service on this Board.

The Board discussed the possible crafting of an advisory opinion that would limit it to the specific facts at hand.

The Board opened the matter up to public input.

Bruce Danielson was sworn and provided input.

Considering the facts and discussions held today, Mr. Eckhoff decided to withdraw his Request for Advisory Opinion.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Bruce Danielson appeared before the Board and thanked Mr. Eckhoff for bringing the question to the Board of Ethics.

**NEXT MEETING**

No specific date for the next meeting was scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cari Hanzel  
Recording Clerk