

## SGGL Membership Meeting Notes 4-1-21

Eileen recognized the Board for their hours of work.

Committee Updates – Election Committee – plan is to reach out to interested candidates and find out how we can help. Kristina will put out a letter to those we know about for City Council or School Board. Idea to have a monthly seminar for the candidates.

Public Outreach - Lowell reported that his committee members are ready for a deep canvass. Lowell will draft a doorhanger for approval. Feels we have to reach out to the public and let them know somebody is listening and responding.

Ken reported for the Legal Committee that SGGL has registered with the City's public records request system and has already filed two records requests regarding Pence and also the process for screening candidates for both senior staff and appointed councilmembers. The Legal committee will be the clearinghouse for submitting requests on behalf of SGGL.

Treasurer/Finance Committee – Dale reported he is looking in to directors and officers insurance. Looking at adding a donation button but want to be sure we have identified how the funds will be used. Looking at options for starting a PAC in addition to our nonprofit status. We have a post office box and the address will be going up on the website. The infrastructure is coming together. Ken also added that we have filed with the Public Disclosure Committee.

Nicole announced that Shenna will be sending out an email with updated committee descriptions so that people can volunteer to be a chair or committee member.

Marsha Maguire commented that the City Council is continuing to move forward. They will try to hire an interim City Manager. She needs more communication but also to know that we are building on strategy. Eileen responded that we now have the records request in and so we will be looking at the results and policies and examining for good governance. Some people have indicated they plan to write LTEs. Shenna added that there are things happening behind the scenes and is happy to talk offline.

Candace responded that while waiting for the PR request to keep in mind that that there are no qualifications required when filing for public office. The only vetting is to verify address. (Ed. Note: However there should be a process for the appointment of officials to fill a vacant term.)

Karen is concerned if this council hires a city manager in September about what that means for anything that we are doing. She has been part of the Citizens Academy and we have a very talented staff at the City. The more people who can email the councilors and write LTEs, the better. The faction on the council wants chaos. Sees both a short-term, and long-term strategy.

Ron Richards asked if there are other good candidates that we have our eye on? A discussion was held about candidates. Encourages those who are interested to throw their name in.

Bruce said in his experience it is the candidate's news to break as far as announcing. Some don't want people to know they are considering and some don't want the wrong people finding out too early. Candace's remarks are spot-on. Asked if we could have on the website SGGL's positions on certain things. She didn't say anything controversial but this isn't the time to be moving forward while we have a majority of appointed positions. Encourages SGGL to followup on this. Also thinks that SGGL should

have a position on having a process for vetting candidates for appointment whether it be Council or commissions. Don't need to have a position on Mike Pence. Suggesting a process isn't controversial and doesn't single out any one person.

Dale agrees with Bruce. Both Karen and Marsha's points and sense of urgency are well taken. Very important for individuals to get out and pursue these strategies. We need to build credibility in the community as a nonpartisan watchdog group. Doesn't have all the answers but we need to come up with it together and keep the dialogue going.

Candace said the City Manager serves at the will of the Council so it is our hope to get strong candidates on the ballot as anything this council does can be undone.

Karen asked how do we reach and say to people that the City can do better? How do we reach those who aren't being heard? Here's what your role is in City government and how you can make your voice heard.

Ron echoed that we don't want to be known as a partisan organization. Regarding Mike Pence, it is a dynamite issue for the upcoming elections. Sees no reason SGGL shouldn't take a position on it as a meaty campaign issue. Harder for Pence to tell the whole SGGL to leave town. The sooner somebody commits, the more committed they show the people they are. Don't wait. Step forward and put your hat in the ring.

Ken said that anything that you can do collaboratively and the more people share the same issue, the more impact, the better. But as long as we're getting things together, we need to rapidly expand content on our website. We're playing catchup in a real sense.

PJ thinks the website just needs someone to be bloggers and write content to put up. How we are going to get people to the website is via the facebook page and ads can be run but the account needs to be authenticated which requires the forms confirming our status as a nonprofit.

Josh asked if we have a clear definition on what nonpartisan means. Ken responded that most of those who are interested in good governance do lean towards the left. Josh commented we need to encourage those leaning conservative to speak out in support of good governance.

Pat asked who is on the Board and when Board and Membership meetings occur. Also asked for clarification as to how many seats are open on the City Council. Dale read off the list of Board members and committee chairs.

Kathy clarified that Brandon is running because his term is ending. He was not appointed. When she applied for the planning commission nobody even called her references.

Karen pointed out that because we back Republican councilmembers it shows we are not partisan. It's about good governance. Pence's actions go beyond his resume itself to his response at being called out on it.

Bruce agrees with Ron that whoever is running should really announce soon and make a splash. It wasn't smart what Pence did on his resume and possibly naive and he feels for him. He is new and possibly having a difficult time of this.

Joyce asked if both the facebook page and group are private. Nicole responded that the page is public and group private although facebook is making changes to groups that we will watch.

Kathy said you can be sure the four people who were appointed will be scrutinizing candidate filings and what they say on their paperwork.

Ken followed up with these are the conversations we are having. What does it mean to be a member? We are trying to get this part of our house in order.

Virginia asked about training for public outreach (and was referred to Lowell). Also wants to know how she knows if she is a member and what is expected? Nicole reiterated Ken's comments that she is a member and we are getting formal membership dialed in.