

MSBA State & Local Government Law
Section Council Minutes
April 15, 2009

The Council met at King's Contrivance Restaurant at 6 p.m. The following Section Council Members participated on the call: Chair Bill Varga, Vice-Chair Laura Swisher, Past Chair Karen Federman-Henry, Steve Orens, John Mathias, Kimberly Millender, Amanda Conn, and Bob McDonald.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 8, 2008 and February 2, 2009 meetings were reviewed. Bill requested that the 12/8/08 minutes be amended to clarify that Bill requested the Municipal Law Blog be modeled on the Law of the Land blog. He also requested that the 2/2/09 minutes be amended to include the 2009-2010 budget submittal, which requested an increase of 10% for the meal allowance, and an additional \$1,120 for funding of mini-programs.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee (Bill, Karen and Diane) made recommendations for the 2009-2010 Section Officers. The recommendation for the slate of officers follows:

Chair: Laura Swisher
Vice-chair: Amanda Conn
Secretary-Treasurer: Robert McCord

The previously discussed nominations for the at-large positions are Diane Jones, Robert McDonald, Kimberly Millender, and Carol Rubin. Bill suggested that Kevin Best, who represents municipal clients for Funk & Bolton, be kept in mind as a future Council member. He also suggested that the Council consider changing the by-laws with regard to terms and term limits, as it is confusing to determine terms and term limits when you include time spent holding an office.

Mini-Program

Discussion around possible topics for the proposed Mini-Program continued. Ginny Barnhardt was suggested as the speaker for pension vested rights. Requirements, conditions and/or restrictions for receiving Stimulus funds could also be addressed, and if legislative update needed, could add that. We need to find speakers.

Future Events

The Land Use Institute was discussed. Bill verified that the Administrative Law Section is not doing a Spring program this year. There was discussion about whether our Section should hold another Fall awards dinner program this year, but consensus that we shouldn't feel a need to hold on an annual basis, as would become difficult to find someone worthy of award, and also hard to sustain attendance. The issue of whether the Section would host another Institute was also raised. The section tries to

schedule for every 18 months to 2 years. The last State and Local Government Law Institute was held in May of 2008, so should try to plan for one by next Spring.

MSBA Annual Meeting

The Annual Bar Conference will be held in Ocean City June 10 – 13. We are obligated to hold our annual meeting and elect officers at the MSBA Annual meeting.

Bill thinks this is a requirement imposed by the Bar. Our section doesn't have many attendees. Laura and Amanda may be able to attend. Bill will request a room.

Other Business

The Council recognized Karen Federman-Henry for all of her hard work and dedication to the Section as this was her last meeting.

The Council discussed issues, problems experienced last year with the Legislative Committee. Basically, it didn't work well. Regular meetings were scheduled, and regularly cancelled. The issue is weeding thru all the bills sent forward. Someone really needs to read the bills to determine impact. Bob suggested trying to catch one of the new hires kicked back by the law firms, as they may want to do something to keep in the game. It was recommended someone check with the Board of Governor's to see if they have any names of interested new attorneys, and use during the legislative session to index bills. Another possibility would be looking into legislative clinics at the law schools.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.