

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
11th MEETING OF 2013
MINUTES
2 DECEMBER, 2013
CONFERENCE ROOM, COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT**

PRESENT:	Karin M. Thompson Nyda Mae Flatley Hedley Robinson Ian Wight	Chairman Member Member Member
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APOLOGIES: N/A

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden	Manager, Commissions Secretariat
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1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:28pm and a prayer was offered.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 October, 2013 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on the SPL Bill

The Chairman has been made aware, by being copied in on email correspondence, that the date that the Bill is due to be debated in the House has not yet been set due to concerns expressed to the Premier from various Board members. It is recognised that changes to the SPL Bill are for policy and legislative makers/drafters however the Commission would appreciate relevant updates from the Government as/when they become available. The Chairman will convey this request to the Deputy Governor.

b. Discussion on the Report of the Working Group on Procurement

The Commission discussed the recommendations contained in this report and whilst it remains unaware of which of the recommendations were accepted by the Government the Commission is of the view that it should adopt all of the recommendations with the exception of the one which indicates that a member of the CSPL should serve on the Procurement Committee. Members feel that this is not only an unpractical one but also one in which a potential conflict may arise.

c. Update on the Seventh Report of the Commission

Members had been duly advised that the Report had been laid in the House on 18 November. The report is now available for public consumption on the Commission's website.

d. Board Training by Chairman

The Chairman was asked to facilitate a presentation to members of the Cayman Islands Airports Authority, Health Services Authority, National Roads Authority and the Port Authority. The presentation is to include a briefing on the powers, functions and duties of the CSPL; as well as discussions surrounding the SPL Bill. Whilst the Chairman had accepted the invitation to facilitate such a presentation, the Board Chairmen have indicated that due to scheduling conflicts the presentation has had to be rescheduled to January, 2013.

e. Freedom of Information provisions

The CSPL noted the article in the Caymanian Compass written by Brent Fuller entitled *Commission Balks at FOI*. While the content appeared to be accurate the Commission felt the title was not appropriate nor warranted. The CSPL reiterates its position that it is not against being brought under the FOI Law however it has a duty to ensure the personal information gathered by the Commission, in line with the SPL Bill, will be protected.

4. Any Other Business

a. Eighth Report of the Commission

The Commission agreed that while the Eighth Report is not due until 15 February a new Commission which is appointed as of 15 January will not be in a position to write such a report. As such the Commission agreed to compile and agree the Eighth Report prior to being disbanded. This report will be a culmination of all of the work of the Commission over the past four years.

b. Presentation to Government

Following communication with the Government on this issue members have been informed that the presentation will not take place.

c. Interview Re Register of Interests

It was noted that the Chairperson was interviewed by Brent Fuller which resulted in an article in the Cayman Compass regarding the Register of Interests and the Members (of the LA's) compliance, or lack thereof, with the declarations. The queries arose after Mr. Fuller reviewed the Register of Interests at the LA. Prior to the interview the Chairman did likewise and as such concerns arose surrounding the submission of timely and complete declarations. The Chairman indicated that she would endeavour to meet with the Registrar of Interests, Mrs. Zena Merren, Clerk of Courts to ascertain some further clarity on the matter. Once she has had an opportunity to do so she indicated she would relay the information to Mr. Fuller.

5. Action List

The Secretariat was tasked with:

- a. Requesting an update on the SPL Bill as detailed in 3a above;
- b. Drafting the Eight Report as detailed in 4a above; and
- c. Arrange a meeting with the Registrar of Interests, Mrs. Zena Merren, Clerk of Courts as detailed in 4c above.

6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

- a. Update on the SPL Bill
- b. Eighth Report of the Commission
- c. Register of Interests

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14 January, 2014 at 2:30pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE