

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALB COUNTY
April 12, 2018**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on April 12th, in the Absentee Area at 4380 Memorial Drive with Board Chair Samuel Tillman presiding.

Present: Michael Coveny, Board Member
Leona Perry, Board Member
Baoky Vu, Board Member (arrived late)
Erica Hamilton, Director
Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Anthony Lewis, Board Member

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:40 PM and asked for approval of the agenda. There were no changes or additions and the agenda was adopted.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Coveny to approve the minutes as written from the March 8th meeting. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the minutes were approved.

Comments from the Public

Four speakers signed in and spoke on behalf of using the Tucker Recreation Center as an Advance Voting site for the full three week period prior to the May 22 General Primary Election. In addition, Mr. Grant presented a petition to this effect with 267 signatures that were secured by candidate Sally Harrell's volunteers.

Unfinished Business

A) Advance Voting Sites/Times for General Primary – Ms. Hamilton stated that much planning and work has gone into securing fair and equitable advance voting throughout the county. Staff recommendation is for three sites (north at Dunwoody Library, central at the VR&E Office and south at South DeKalb Mall with different hours to coincide with Mall hours) to be open for the entire three week period, 7 AM to 7 PM on week-days, plus two Saturdays and one Sunday, with an additional seven locations (Atlanta, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Decatur, East DeKalb, Stonecrest & Tucker) to be open the week before the election with hours of 7 AM to 7 PM. Ms. Hamilton further explained that the Tucker location was chosen because Tucker Rec. is no longer a county facility, plus the last time we were there we were placed in a less than ideal area for voting. A motion was made by Mr. Coveny to approve the proposed 2018 General Primary Advance Voting sites and times. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Coveny expressed his appreciation for the explanation and summarized his understanding of the proposal. He further stated that in his more than 10 years on the Board, this is the most far reaching and inclusive options offered to date and he sincerely appreciates all of the hard work that has gone into the preparation. Mr. Vu echoed Mr. Coveny's comments and both he and Mr. Tillman addressed Tucker Rec. vs. Tucker Library concerns. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was approved.

New Business

- A) Approval of Poll Officials for the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election – The Board was provided with a list of Managers and Assistant Managers for the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election. A motion was made by Mr. Coveny to approve the poll officials. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was approved.
- B) Pollworker Pay Increase – The Board was provided with a spreadsheet which Ms. Hamilton summarized, including the addition of a new “Provisional Ballot Clerk” position whose total responsibility will be to handle anything relating to provisional ballots. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the proposed pay increase. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. Mr. Tillman commented that the most frequent question he is asked by poll workers on Election Day when he visits the precincts is “When are we going to get a pay raise?” He applauded Ms. Hamilton for bringing this to the attention of the Board because it has been a long time since the last one and poll officials work very hard and long hours each Election Day. The question was called and the motion was approved.

Legislative Update – Mr. Tillman reported that none of the Election Bills that we were watching passed. He stated there appears to be some Bill or Bills introduced each year in an attempt to suppress an individual’s right to vote and cautioned that though they did not pass this year, it is expected they or something similar will be back.

Information Items Included in Packet: (Reviewed by Board members with comments)

- A) Work Performed in Office
- B) Staff Minutes

Mr. Tillman asked Ms. Hamilton to explain the challenges the Department had regarding the ballot building process which changed this year. Ms. Hamilton gave a brief summary and assured the Board that all of our Absentee Ballots went out on time.

Comments from the Board – Mr. Vu addressed some of the concerns brought forward during public comment. The conduct of elections and the voting process is a complicated procedure within which are many checks & balances. While two Board Members each are appointed by the respective political parties, the Board as a whole, always looks at the fairness in all aspects of conducting elections in DeKalb County. Mr. Tillman wholeheartedly agreed and Mr. Coveny assured present company that all things are taken into consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Assistant
Registration and Elections