

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021

*via zoom platform

Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

End Time: 5:30 p.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Samuel Tillman
Vice Chair Baoky Vu
Dele Lowman Smith
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Erica Hamilton, Director
Vivane Ernstes, County Attorney
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order. Motion by Mr. Vu and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the agenda. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Motter to defer approval of the minutes from April 8, 2021 so that specific requests from Board members and action items can be included in the minutes. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

No comments from Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Baker read the rules for public comment.

Public comments of two minutes or less may be made live via the teleconference. For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted.

No comments from the public.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Vu to recess for executive session to discuss litigation. Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Lewis to resume this regularly scheduled session. Motion carries unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Communications Update

Mr. Burton discussed inquiries about the fifth member of this Board. Mr. Burton and his team is re-directing them to Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Asha Jackson. Additionally, information regarding Senate Bill 202 will be finalized for release on all platforms.

Ms. Motter asked Mr. Burton about efforts to update and improve the VRE website.

Ms. Smith requested that Mr. Burton work with Ms. Hamilton to ensure that Board members are copied on all press releases moving forward.

B) 2020 Election Cycle Lessons Learned Consultant

Ms. Hamilton recommended the Board hire Ms. Wilson and use her services to conduct a review of best practices and lessons learned during the 2020 Election Cycle. The Board discussed details of this review, including when it will commence, deliverables and expectations, and scope of work while considering this recommendation.

Ms. Motter and Ms. Smith requested more information about Ms. Wilson's background and expertise. Mr. Lewis requested that Ms. Wilson come before the board to discuss her services further.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

See attachment(s).

Mr. Lewis asked Ms. Hamilton for an update on funding from the Board of Commissioners for staff needs. Additionally, Mr. Lewis requested that Ms. Hamilton follow-up with an update after the next budget meeting.

Mr. Lewis shared his thoughts about staff members participating in the Elections Stakeholder Working Group. Ms. Hamilton asked Mr. Manson to address Mr. Lewis's concerns about the goals of the working group.

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Hamilton for an unredacted version of the SOPs and inquired about the status of the grant expenditures as the Board has not received this information. Ms. Smith requested an agenda item for an update on the status of the implementation of recommendations from the previous consultant's report be added to the next meeting.

Ms. Smith requested a list of anticipated upcoming elections in November.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Motter would like to return to in-person meetings.

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Ms. Smith would also like to discuss preparations for in-person meetings at the next meeting.

Mr. Lewis suggested the Board consider having socially-distanced, in-person meetings. Also, Mr. Lewis suggested that the Board look into voters who are still on the voter rolls but may no longer live in DeKalb County.

Mr. Lewis expressed concerns about the Board of Commissioner's reinstatement of the working group and the department's involvement with it. Furthermore, Mr. Lewis is disappointed with the lack of funding the department has received. Ms. Smith concurred with Mr. Lewis's comments about the working group and requested that an agenda item for this topic be added to next month's meeting agenda.

Mr. Tillman commented on the lack of interest in fully funding the department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Vu adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.