

# DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

## Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2021

\*via zoom platform

Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

End Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

A) October 28, 2020 (Amended Minutes)

B) April 8, 2021

C) May 13, 2021

Motion by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Motter to adopt all the minutes from previous meetings. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

### **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.

## **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Terry addressed the Board and is available to discuss the "Discussion of Working Group" item later during this meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### A) Status of Consultant Recommendations

Ms. Hamilton introduced Ms. Coven-Wilson. Ms. Coven-Wilson discussed her professional background, including her training and experience. The Board discussed the scope of Ms. Coven-Wilson's proposal including how she will identify best practices and what she will do with the information obtained from the focus groups and the surveys conducted.

Ms. Motter expressed concerns about what the appropriate best practices are and if this project will identify whether the Board has implemented best practices.

Ms. Smith suggested that Ms. Coven-Wilson remove the "best practices" language from her proposal. Ms. Coven-Wilson will modify the proposal and re-submit to the Board.

### B) Discussion of Working Group Goals

Mr. Tillman announced that he just received the resolution from the Board of Commissioners, which the Board of Registrars and Electors ("BRE") has not discussed. Mr. Tillman commented that this item should have been presented to the BRE for discussion so that the Board could provide input before the item was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Terry discussed the resolution for the stakeholder working group.

Mr. Lewis commented that this resolution does not expressly provide budgeting for the department. Additionally, Mr. Lewis commented on how the resolution allows for Commissioners to select two members from this Board to work on the group and suggested that any members' involvement should be voluntary. Mr. Lewis expressed concern about elected officials being involved with this committee rather than volunteers that are appointed.

Ms. Smith responded to Commissioner Terry and is more interested in having a conversation about converting the previously established working group, an ad hoc committee, into a standing committee, and what the structure of that long-term committee would be.

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Vu to table this discussion until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

### C) Timeline for Resumption of In-Person Meetings

Click here to view BRE meetings: [Video On Demand | DeKalb County, GA \(dekalbcountyga.gov\)](https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov)

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Mr. Lewis to table this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

Ms. Smith requested that Ms. Hamilton and the appropriate individual(s) prepare recommendations for how to coordinate in-person meetings at the next Board meeting.

D) Communications Update

Mr. Burton provided an update on phase two of the website. At the next meeting, Mr. Burton will discuss the communications plan and asked for the Board's feedback.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

See attachment(s).

Ms. Smith requested that Ms. Hamilton make arrangements for the Board members interested in attending the Georgia VRE Officials Conference.

Ms. Hamilton will send a list of cities and their respective upcoming elections to the Board per Ms. Smith's request.

Mr. Lewis asked for an update on the outstanding Section 229 voter challenges. Ms. Hamilton explained that once the Board scheduled a hearing date, she and her staff will send a letter notifying voters that their voter registration status is being challenged.

Ms. Smith suggested moving forward with hiring of Ms. Coven-Wilson.

Motion by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tillman to approve the funding of the lessons learned engagement with Ms. Coven-Wilson, contingent on the updated scope of work being provided to the board. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Vu and seconded by Mr. Lewis to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.