

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS  
DEKALB COUNTY  
July 11, 2019**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on July 11th, in the Absentee Area at 4380 Memorial Drive with Board Chair Samuel Tillman presiding.

Present: Anthony Lewis, Board Member  
Susan Motter, Board Member  
Dele Lowman Smith, Board Member  
Baoky Vu, Board Member (arrived late)  
Erica Hamilton, Director  
Tiffani Gilbert, Elections Supervisor  
Twyla Hart, Registration Supervisor  
Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator (Trainee)  
Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 PM and stated since one Board member was on his way and caught in traffic that items to be voted on would be addressed towards the end of the agenda.

Welcome New Board Members

Mr. Tillman welcomed the two new Board Members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Ms. Dele Lowman Smith stated she is a resident of Stonecrest, Georgia and has formerly served as assistant city/county manager for other jurisdictions and is currently a leadership and strategic planning consultant to local governments and non-profits. Ms. Smith stated her focus is to ensure elections are conducted in the manner that they are intended.

Ms. Susan Motter stated she is a compliance attorney and has been an attorney for 25 years. She has been a voter registration volunteer for over a decade; a voter protection volunteer both in Georgia and in Florida for about twelve years. Voting rights are her passion, even more so than her regular job.

Mr. Tillman and Mr. Lewis introduced themselves to the new Board Members. Mr. Tillman has served on the Board for more than 20 years and Mr. Lewis is in his third term.

Comments from the Public

Nine citizens from an organized group, some of whom were not DeKalb County voters, signed in to complain about the 2018 election, including but not limited to, absentee ballots, polling place experiences and overall leadership. Those with specific issues were asked to remain after the meeting so that their concerns could be further researched and addressed.

Unfinished Business

- A) Audit Update – Ms. Hamilton reported on the status of the audit. Ms. Hamilton, Elections Supervisor Tiffani Gilbert and Registration Supervisor Twyla Hart recently met with the audit team, their attorney and the Secretary of State’s office to determine whether or not they could have access into the state registration system and it was determined that neither state or federal law allows access to “the public.” Ms. Smith inquired as to how that would affect the overall intent of the audit. Ms. Hamilton responded that she was not sure since the Department not been told exactly what the audit team is looking for.

New Business --

- A) Introduce New Employee -- Ms. Hamilton stated that as the Board is aware, Administrative Coordinator Mary Frances Weeks, after 20 years of service, will be retiring at the end of August. Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Hart interviewed several candidates and Ms. Sharon (Shari) Hillman was chosen. She will come aboard on Monday to start the training process. Ms. Hillman said she was excited and looking forward to the challenge. Mr. Tillman expressed his sincere appreciation to Ms. Weeks for her long-time service and institutional knowledge and wished her well on behalf of the Board.
- B) Proposed Called Board Meeting due to Unexpected Polling Place Change -- Ms. Hamilton explained that Emory Presbyterian Church (Emory Road Precinct) has notified us that they will no longer be able to serve as a polling location. We immediately started looking for a replacement polling place within the precinct; however, nothing was found. For the November election, the Department is proposing to relocate to Druid Hills High, as we continue to seek out another location for 2020. A called meeting is necessary because the law requires that a notice be posted in the legal organ two weeks prior to the Board voting on a move outside boundary lines. A short, called meeting will need to be scheduled on Thursday, August 1, at 4:30 PM. Mr. Lewis asked Ms. Hamilton to give a brief overview of our relationship with facilities that serve as polling places. Ms. Hamilton stated that we attempt to use government buildings whenever possible and if that is not feasible, we contact churches in a precinct. Once the facility gives permission and ADA and technical requirements are met, an agreement between the facility and the VR&E Board is signed and the county pays an agreed upon nominal fee. Most facilities see this as a community service.

Minutes

Approval of minutes from last meeting was delayed until all members were present. A motion was made by Mr. Vu to approve the minutes as written from the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called, and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Motter asked if the agenda needed to be approved and Mr. Tillman concurred. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to approve the agenda. Ms. Motter seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called, and the agenda was adopted.

Election of Officers

Mr. Tillman opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Vu welcomed the two new Board members and commented that the Board works together cohesively in a nonpartisan way for the good of elections. Mr. Vu then nominated Samuel Tillman's reappointment as Chair for the 2019-21 Term. Ms. Motter nominated Ms. Dele Lowman Smith as Chair. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to close the floor for nominations. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was passed. Vice Chair Baoky Vu took the gavel and asked for a vote with Mr. Tillman being elected with a vote of 3-2. Mr. Lewis nominated Baoky Vu to serve as Vice Chair for the 2019-21 Term. Ms. Motter then nominated Ms. Dele Lowman Smith as Vice Chair. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to close the floor for nominations. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was passed. A motion was made by Mr. Vu to close the floor for nominations. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. Chair Samuel Tillman asked for a vote with Mr. Vu being elected as Vice Chair with a vote of 3-2. Mr. Tillman explained that the law written this year that changed the way appointments are now made was the result of a Supreme Court decision that had nothing to do with this Board.

July 11, 2019

Page 3

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

B) Work Performed in Office

Ms. Smith asked about the trend of registration requests received this this year in comparison with previous years. Ms. Hamilton responded that right now we are on target for a non-election year. In addition to processing registration cards, the staff has also mailed out 38,000 National Change of Address Confirmation Notices and so far about 8,000 have been returned to us undeliverable with about 1,000 completed and returned by the voters.

Comments from the Board – Mr. Lewis stated that during his time on the Board, he has always been pleased that everyone has worked together and whoever serves as Chair or Vice Chair doesn't really matter. All members are listened to and concerns addressed by both staff and fellow board members. He further expressed his thanks to the staff for their dedication and hard work. Mr. Vu expressed his thanks to Ms. Weeks upon her retirement as well as to the rest of the staff. Ms. Motter made suggestions regarding changes to the minutes, i.e, reference to the "Work Performed in Office" report. Further she suggested the names or a list of the speakers to be included in the minutes. Ms. Smith echoed comments regarding transparency and providing more information to members of the public. She indicate that she is very committed to transparency in government.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Coordinator.  
Registration and Elections