

**Ingham County Board of Commissioners
Democratic Caucus Agenda
6:00 pm, March 11, 2014
Caucus Room, Courthouse, Mason**

1. Approval of the Minutes
2. Caucus Treasurer Report: (Comm. Hope)
3. Appointments

Board / Commission	Appointee	Eligible/Requests Reappt.	Expire	Applicants	Appointed by
Community Corrections Advisory Board		1 Business Representative vacancy			BOC/ L&C
Farmland Preservation Board		1 vacancy Agriculture Representative		Robert Fogg	BOC/CS
Ingham County Family Center Advisory Board		Community representative vacancy		Mae Tanner	BOC/ L&C
Senior Citizens Advisory Board		1 vacancy			BOC/ Board Chair
Youth Commission		Up to 14 Vacancies		Eriq Rivera Tajanae Burtley Abdullahi Gabayre	BOC/CS
Upcoming Vacancies					
Capital Area District Library Board	Sally Trout	ineligible requests reappointment	4/15/14		BOC/HS
Veterans Affairs Committee	Norvel Harris (Korea)	Ineligible	5/8/14		BOC/HS

i – interviewed c- committee recommended

4. Caucus Treasurer Report: (Comm. Hope)
5. Liaison Committee Report
6. Commissioner Concerns
7. Other Issues:
8. Items/Amendments for Tonight's Board Meeting

Ingham County Board of Commissioners Democratic Caucus
Draft - Minutes
February 25, 2014

Commissioners Present: Anthony, Crenshaw, Holman, Hope, Nolan, McGrain, Tsernoglou, Koenig (arrived 6:22 p.m.).

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners Bahar-Cook, Celentino, and Tennis.

Others Present: Clerk Barb Byrum, Becky Bennett, Angela Wittrock, Judge Boyd, Judge Allen, Treasurer Schertzing, Matt Nordfjord, John Neilsen, Controller Dolehanty, Commissioner Schafer, Commissioner Maiville, Commissioner Vickers.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Anthony at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of the Democratic Caucus Minutes:

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. HOPE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING.

COMM. MCGRAIN REQUESTED THE MINUTES BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING (NEW TEXT IN ITALICS):

Commissioner Celentino stated there have been no issues with her service or attendance on the Board.

Commissioner McGrain stated he would like more information before moving forward with a vote on the reappointment.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Celentino, Koenig, Tennis, and Bahar-Cook.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Hope presented a print out of the Treasurer's Report. She noted \$75.00 in income from Commissioner Nolan's dues.

Commissioner Hope stated there was an opportunity to sponsor, as a caucus or individually, the Run for the Ages 5K.

Commissioner Nolan stated she was worried about sponsoring non-political events through the caucus.

Members agreed to discuss funding criteria at a later date.

Commissioner Hope stated the caucus elected to sponsor the Ingham County Democratic Party's Mardi Gras event for \$250. At that level, the caucus received one ticket to the event. To avoid choosing one member to attend, the caucus gave the ticket to Mark Schauer.

Commissioner Hope reported the current balance of the account is \$1,089.96.

COMM. NOLAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TSERNOGLOU.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Celentino, Koenig, Tennis, and Bahar-Cook.

Appointments:

Commission Holman stated that the County Services Committee interviewed all four applicants for the three Women's Commission vacancies and felt all were excellent candidates.

One applicant, Katie Van Schoick, told the committee she would be out of the country for several months.

Commissioners agreed it would be best to move forward with three appointments and keep Ms. Van Schoick's application on file for a future vacancy.

MOVED BY COMM. TSERNOGLOU, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MCGRAIN, TO APPOINT THUY BUI, DICHONDRA JOHNSON AND LAURA FULLER TO THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Celentino, Koenig, Tennis, and Bahar-Cook.

Board Coordinator Becky Bennett stated that Sally Trout requested reappointment to the Capital Area District Library Board, but was ineligible, so the board would need to waive that requirement as they have for other reappointments.

Commissioner McGrain said he felt there should be a higher level of scrutiny for boards such as the library, the zoo, and others that handle multi-million dollar budgets.

Commissioner Nolan spoke about Ms. Trout's work as a writer for the Lansing State Journal and her experience as a librarian.

Commissioner McGrain suggested the caucus should request updated applications from any board appointees seeking reappointment and a waiver of ineligibility due to term limits.

Commissioner Anthony suggested also requiring a cover letter speaking to the applicants accomplishments with the board.

MOVED BY COMM. MCGRAIN, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER NOLAN, TO REQUIRE UPDATED APPLICATIONS AND COVER LETTERS FROM BOARD APPOINTEES REQUESTING REAPPOINTMENT AND A WAIVER OF INELIGIBILITY.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Celentino, Koenig, Tennis, and Bahar-Cook.

The caucus agreed to table the reappointment of Ms. Trout until the new application and cover letter is received.

Commissioner Holman spoke about Paul Palmer, who was eligible for reappointment to the Community Mental Health Board.

MOVED BY COMM. HOLMAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NOLAN, TO REAPPOINT PAUL PALMER TO THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Celentino, Koenig, Tennis, and Bahar-Cook.

Liaison Committee Reports:

None.

Commissioner Concerns:

Commissioner Anthony opened the floor for discussion of a potential letter of support, signed by Chairman Celentino on behalf of the County, for the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition's application for grant funding from the Capital Region Community Foundation, to fund its Tuesday Toolmen Program.

Commissioner Anthony noted that the Caucus has previously discussed that it did not feel the chair should act on behalf of the board without prior authorization.

Commissioner Crenshaw verified with Chairman Celentino that he was comfortable with the letter as it stood, as Celentino was not present for the caucus meeting.

Commissioner McGrain stated that he was concerned such a letter would set a precedent and would lead to the board issuing dozens of such letters.

Commissioner Nolan stated she was concerned about precedent as well, and asked Ms. Bennett if the board did similar things in the past.

Commissioner Koenig arrived at 6:22 p.m. She stated she was concerned about precedent and asked if the board had written letters of support in the past.

Commissioner Tsernoglou stated she was fine with the letter.

COMM. TSERNOGLOU MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING THE LETTER OF SUPPORT. COMM. CRENSHAW SECONDED.

Commissioner Schafer said no individual could speak for the entire board. He said he supported the letter, but that it needed to go through the full board, not just the Dem caucus.

Commissioner Anthony asked how the letter of support should have been generated, and what the process should have been.

Commissioner McGrain said the letter should have been part of the resolution process.

Commissioner Anthony asked what the pleasure of the caucus was on the matter. Members agreed to have the letter revised into a "we are" format, with individual members signing on in support.

Commissioners Nolan, Crenshaw, Tsernoglou, Hope, Holman, Anthony, Schafer, Maiville and Vickers requested their names be listed as supporting.

Commissioner Holman updated the caucus on the status of the proposed Parks Millage and stated that it would likely be on the November 2, 2014 General Election ballot.

Other issues:

None.

Items/Amendments for Tonight's Board Meeting:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.