

**Ingham County Board of Commissioners
Democratic Caucus Agenda
6:00 pm, July 22, 2014
Caucus Room, Courthouse, Mason**

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

<i>Board / Commission</i>	Appointee Eligible/Requests Reappt.	<i>Expire</i>	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Appointed by</i>
Community Corrections Advisory Board	1 Business Representative vacancy 1 Criminal Defense Attorney		Mick Grewel (atty) <i>ic</i>	BOC/ L&C resolution
Farmland Preservation Board	Agriculture Representative			BOC/CS
Senior Citizens Advisory Board	1 vacancy			BOC/ Board Chair
Youth Commission	Up to 14 Vacancies		Eriq Rivera Tajanae Burtley Abdullahi Gabayre Titus Dodd	BOC/HS

i – interviewed c- committee recommended

4. Liaison Committee Report
5. Commissioner Concerns
6. Other Issues:
 - a. Smartzone Appointment
 - b. Parks Director Search Committee
7. Items/Amendments for Tonight's Board Meeting

Ingham County Board of Commissioners Democratic Caucus
Draft - Minutes
June 24, 2014

Commissioners Present: Anthony, Bahar-Cook, Celentino, Crenshaw, Holman (arrived at 6:01 p.m.), Hope, Koenig (arrived at 6:02 p.m.), McGrain, Tennis and Tsernoglou.

Commissioners Absent: Nolan.

Others Present: Tim Dolehanty, Jared Cypher, John Neilsen, Barb Byrum, James Bibbs, Martha Bibbs, Becky Bennett and Ryan Buck.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Anthony at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Democratic Caucus Minutes:

MOVED BY COMM. CRENSHAW, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TSERNOGLOU, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2014 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Comm. Holman, Koenig and Nolan.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Hope stated that she had nothing new to report and that our balance was the same as it was last time she reported. She further stated that she would bring her written report to the next meeting to reflect the end of the month.

Commissioner McGrain asked who was delinquent in paying dues.

Discussion.

Commissioner Holman arrived at 6:01 p.m.

Commissioner Hope stated that there were still people that owed dues.

Chairperson Anthony stated that she paid her dues at the last meeting.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Comm. Koenig and Nolan.

Appointments:

Chairperson Anthony stated that the Board of Commissioners would be considering a resolution to fill the vacant position on the Ingham County Family Center Advisory Board tonight.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook provided the phonetic pronunciation for Sunaturial Seay's first name.

Chairperson Anthony asked whether there were any updates on the Youth Commission.

Becky Bennett, Board Coordinator, stated that candidates would be contacted for interview for the July 14 Human Services Committee meeting.

Chairperson Anthony stated that she wanted to make sure that we got those youth interviewed for the Youth Commission.

Commissioner McGrain stated that he had been talking to Joe McDonald over at Lansing in regards to putting together an announcement advertising available positions on boards throughout the County and Lansing if interested persons wanted to seek appointment. He further stated that he had been in contact with the Chamber regarding this and Ms. Bennett was the contact person. Commissioner McGrain stated that he was willing to show the other commissioners the information so they were made aware of it.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook requested that Commissioner McGrain send the information to everyone.

Commissioner McGrain agreed to send the information to everyone.

Chairperson Anthony stated that this information was specifically requested by the UAW.

Discussion.

Chairperson Anthony stated that she did not want third parties getting multiple emails from multiple commissioners. She asked the Caucus to communicate amongst each other to avoid this issue.

Liaison Committee Reports:

Chairperson Anthony asked whether there were any updates from our liaison committees.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated that she was going to pull several resolutions from today's consent agenda and that the resolutions were related to the Women's Commission's annual essay contest.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he would pull Agenda Item No.23 from today's consent agenda. He further stated that this resolution was the resolution commemorating the 100 years of cooperative extension with Michigan State University.

Discussion.

Ms. Bennett stated that Ernest Lutz would be here today to receive his resolution.

Commissioner Concerns:

Commissioner Celentino stated that he had been speaking with several people in the Office of the Controller and on the Board of Commissioners regarding a letter, submitted by Willis Bennett, Parks Department Director, in which Mr. Bennett stated that he would officially retire on November 28. Commissioner Celentino further stated that this was an opportunity to be proactive and begin searching for a replacement that could step in when Mr. Bennett retired. Commissioner Celentino asked for input on the issue and further asked whether we should have a search committee similar to the search committees to fill the Health Officer and Animal Control Director positions.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the County Services Committee was the oversight committee for this position. He further stated that the July 15 County Services Committee meeting could recommend a search committee that the Board could approve at the July 22 Board of Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Celentino suggested that the people that were interested in serving on the search committee should make their interests known. He asked what the other Caucus members thought about the idea of a search committee.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission met last night and they discussed this issue. She further stated that she told the Parks Commission that she believed that the Board of Commissioners was going to handle this like the Board of Commissioners handled the Fair Manager position because the job requirements for the Parks Director and Fair Manager were similar. Commissioner Koenig stated that with the Fair Manager search committee, members of both the Fair Board and Board of Commissioners served together, interviewed candidates, and eventually got a resolution passed to hire a candidate.

Discussion.

Commissioner Celentino asked if the Fair Board passed a candidate recommendation or if there were different rules then.

Ms. Bennett stated that it was different back then.

Discussion.

Ms. Bennett stated that the Parks Director position was appointed by the Board of Commissioners and worked under the Controller.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Parks Commission wanted know what the process would be and whether the Parks Commission would be involved.

Ms. Bennett stated that what was done with the Animal Control position was to put the commissioner who served on the Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee on the search committee.

Commissioner Crenshaw stated that since this involved a department head level position, the commissioner who served on the Parks Commission should be a part of the search committee, but the other Parks Commission members should not serve on the search committee.

Commissioner Hope stated that she liked Commissioner Celentino's plan to form a search committee from the pool of commissioners.

Commissioner Holman stated that she believed the Fair Director search involved only commissioners and Fair Board members.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tsernoglou stated that the Board of Commissioners had recently changed how the Parks Director was overseen. She further stated that in the past it was the Parks Commission that oversaw the Parks Director. Commissioner Tsernoglou stated the past policy did not make sense and the Parks Director should fit in with the other department head level positions. She further stated that she thought that in the past the Parks Commission had representation on the search committee. Commissioner Tsernoglou stated that she had no feeling either way, but that if positions for Parks Commission members were available on the search committee, there were Parks Commission members who were interested in serving who had a lot of specialized knowledge. She further stated that she did not think it would be a bad move to include at least the Parks Commission Chair on the search committee

Chairperson Anthony stated that perhaps the search committee could be commissioner-led, but have a one or two positions available for the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated they could invite the Parks Commission Chair to serve on the search committee, but have no vote. She further stated that it was important to send a message that the Parks Director worked for the Board of Commissioners, not the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he was fine with members of the Parks Commission serving on the search committee as ex officio members. He further stated that there were two commissioners who sat on the Parks Commission so the Parks Commission could be represented by those commissioners on the search committee.

Chairperson Anthony stated that the search committee could be commissioner-led, the Parks Commission Chair would serve as an ex officio member, and the search committee would otherwise follow the same procedures that were used in the Health Officer and Animal Control Director searches. She asked whether the Caucus members would be amenable to this plan.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he was worried about setting a precedent for the future. He further stated that there could be potential complications.

Discussion.

Commissioner Koenig asked if Ms. Bennett could explain how the Fair Board Manager and Parks Director positions were chosen and further if she could distinguish the two selection processes.

Ms. Bennett stated that in the case of the Fair Board and Fair Manager, they used to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. She further stated that in the case of the Parks Commission and Parks Director, the Parks Commission used to have the power to hire and fire the Parks Director. Ms. Bennett stated that Parks Commission did not have that ability now.

Commissioner Koenig asked who directly oversaw the Fair Manager.

Ms. Bennett stated that the Controller oversees the Fair Manager.

Commissioner Koenig asked Ms. Bennett to provide a document explaining how they were to be chosen.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that the Board of Commissioners hires the Fair Manager and Parks Director.

Discussion.

Commissioner McGrain stated that the commissioners were trying to stream line everything through the Controller. He further stated that the commissioners need to have a hands-on approach to this. Commissioner McGrain asked Commissioner Tennis why we did not want the Parks Commission Chair to be a part of the committee.

Commissioner Tennis stated that there would be no problem nine times out of ten, but based on his experience on the Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee, there were very strong opinions and personalities involved. He further stated that they would have very different views than a commissioner would. Commissioner Tennis stated that he feared the possible situation where the Parks Commission Chair completely disagreed with the choice of Parks Director that the Board of Commissioners made. He further stated that the Parks Commission Chair could hamstring the new Director.

Discussion.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated that we had plenty of time to figure this out. She further stated that County Services Committee could look at systemizing how the Board of Commissioners would choose new employees.

Commissioner Tsernoglou stated that some committees had different focuses and the resolutions that created them were for very different purposes. She gave the example of the Parks Commission versus the Animal

Control Shelter Advisory Board and stated that the Parks Commission goes through the budget and event planning for the parks while the Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee reviewed animal complaints.

Discussion.

Commissioner McGrain stated that this should not go to County Services Committee because it involved many issues that go through the Human Services and Law & Courts Committees. He asked the Controller to prepare a memo for the next Caucus meeting that would lay out every position that the Board of Commissioners would be hiring for and the current process utilized to make hiring decisions.

Chairperson Anthony stated that she would like a memo prepared as well.

Commissioner Holman stated that this issue involved our head directors and the Board of Commissioners should decide who was hired.

Chairperson Anthony stated that this issue would be tabled until the July 22nd Caucus meeting.

Chairperson Anthony stated that the Caucus should look at the position description, including the educational requirements. She further stated that she thought they were too low.

Discussion.

John Neilsen, Chief Deputy Controller, stated that after going through the first interview process for the Animal Control Director position, the Selection Committee chose to do a second application process. He further stated that they also wanted to broaden the applicant pool by allowing a candidate to have an Associate's degree if they also had more related work experience for the Animal Control Director position. Mr. Neilsen stated that the Controller reviewed the position and upgraded it a level. He further stated that since the Board of Commissioners was entering its summer schedule, Mr. Bennett's November 28 retirement date was closer than the Caucus thought.

Commissioner McGrain stated that he wanted to move quickly on the Parks Director position.

Chairperson Anthony stated that she agreed with Commissioner McGrain's statement.

Commissioner Koenig stated that there was a lot of work going into the Parks Director position, including work from the Parks Commission and Controller.

Discussion.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he was a member of the Substance Use Disorder Advisory Board as the Board of Commissioner's representative, the meetings of the Substance Use Disorder Advisory Board were usually on Monday mornings around 9 a.m., he has not been able to make a single meeting due to scheduling conflicts, and he was seeking to be replaced by another commissioner.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she would volunteer to replace Commissioner Tennis if no one else wanted to.

Chairperson Anthony stated that this issue could be taken up at the July 22nd Caucus meeting.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated that they had the Law & Courts Committee budget meeting last Monday and it turned out that the Supreme Court decision that came down last week may put us at a \$800,000 deficit in the court budget because they were no longer allowed to charge any fees to cover court costs.

Commissioner Koenig stated that that was untrue and the ruling applied only to statutory fees.

Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated that there were five fees that they were allowed to charge and nothing else. She further stated that District Court Chief Judge Thomas P. Boyd stated that this would result in a \$600,000 deficit to his budget and Circuit Court Chief Judge Janelle A. Lawless stated that this would result in about a \$190,000 deficit to her budget. Commissioner Bahar-Cook stated that she had had conversations with State Representative Andy Schor regarding this issue and there might be a legislative fix in the works. She further stated that she did not know if the legislative fix would come in time for the budget so she had spoken with Mr. Neilsen about drawing up two budgets based on whether a legislative fix would exist in time or not.

Chairperson Anthony stated that they discussed Agenda Item No. 34 regarding the Life O'Riley situation at the last Finance Committee meeting. She asked whether Lansing had provided a budget.

Mr. Cypher stated that they did receive a budget, the County Attorney had reviewed it and it had passed legal review, but the Controller would need some more information to define a scope of services agreement. He further stated that he did not see any problem with passing the resolution tonight.

Other issues:

None.

Items/Amendments for Tonight's Board Meeting:

Chairperson Anthony greeted James and Martha Bibbs.

Commissioner McGrain stated that there was a late resolution, which was a request from Lansing to recognize June as Internet Safety Month. He further stated that the resolution was not controversial.

Commissioner Hope stated that she would be pulling Agenda Item No. 33 for disclosure purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.