

OAKLAND COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MINUTES

July 22, 2021

Meeting called to order by Caucus Chairperson Kristen Nelson at 3:42 p.m. in the Courthouse Committee Room A, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan.

Roll called.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cavell from Ferndale in Oakland County, Charles, Gershenson, Jackson, Luebs, Markham, McGillivray, Nelson, Powell, Woodward. (10)

EXCUSED ABSENCE WITH NOTICE: Miller. (1)

Quorum present.

Kathryn Kennedy addressed the Caucus during Public Comment.

Moved by McGillivray seconded by Jackson the minutes of the June 30, 2021 Caucus be approved.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the minutes were approved.

The members of the Caucus discussed the Board Agenda.

Chairperson Kristen Nelson addressed the Caucus to announce that they would start with discussion on Agenda Item 7a. – American Rescue Plan.

Chairperson Kristen Nelson addressed the Caucus to discuss the issues facing the County that were considered of most concern after the information from the previous Caucus had been assembled. The categories were as follows:

Acute Needs: Youth services, the COVID-19 Delta Variant and tax foreclosure assistance.

Long Term Needs: Infrastructure, transit, investment in CVTs and creation of an Oakland County Office of Innovation.

Both: Broadband, housing, senior services, workforce development, mental health, child care, economic development and basic needs.

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Discussion followed.

Commissioner Jackson addressed the Caucus regarding non-profit stabilization and foreclosures. She suggested the Board work with the Treasurer's office on property tax foreclosure assistance.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner McGillivray addressed the Caucus regarding a new proposed miscellaneous resolution being introduced tonight entitled: Board of Commissioners – Assignment of American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for a Matching Grant Program to Local Cities, Villages and Townships to Plan for Critical Infrastructure Projects.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Gershenson addressed the Caucus regarding investment of funds for interest.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Charles addressed the Caucus to inquire about the timeline for spending and receiving American Rescue Plan funds.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Cavell addressed the Caucus regarding different categories that could be combined for work groups.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Nelson polled the Commissioners on their areas of highest interest and work group leaders.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Gershenson addressed the Caucus regarding representation within work groups. She suggested representation from both Democratic and Republican Commissioners, citizens and administration.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Jackson addressed the Caucus to suggest that work group workflow procedures should be uniform.

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Discussion followed.

Commissioner Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding timelines. He stated that the ARP funds have three years to be allocated and five years to be spent.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding the FY 2022-2024 Budget Presentation being given at the Board of Commissioners meeting by County Executive David Coulter and his team.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner McGillivray addressed the Caucus regarding the search for a new Parks and Recreation Executive Director. He informed the Commissioners that final interviews will be held on August 2nd and a final decision will be announced at the August 4th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Discussion followed.

Chairperson Kristen Nelson addressed the Caucus regarding a re-appointment to the Building Authority.

Commissioner Markham addressed the Caucus regarding Finance Committee item c. entitled: Board of Commissioners – Revised Fund Balance Policy for the General Fund.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Luebs addressed the Caucus regarding Public Health and Safety Committee item g. entitled: Sheriff's Office – 2021 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Program Grant Application.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding the ARP resolution being introduced by Commissioner Spisz, five grant exceptions being accepted via communications, bodycams for the Sheriff's Office and a motion that will be made at the Board of Commissioners meeting regarding Public Comment.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner McGillivray addressed the Caucus regarding issues the Parks and Recreation Commission is having with Oak Management.

Discussion followed.

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Commissioner Woodward addressed the Caucus to inform the Commissioners that there will be at least three amendments offered to Finance Committee item c. entitled: Board of Commissioners – Revised Fund Balance Policy for the General Fund at the Board of Commissioners meeting.

The Caucus adjourned at 8:14 p.m. until August 5, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

LISA BROWN
Clerk

KRISTEN NELSON
Caucus Chairperson