

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
November 19, 2018
Minutes

Members Present: Sebolt, Morgan (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), Tennis, Nolan, Triplett, Naeyaert and Banas

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Joy Gleason, Pat Witte, Steve Taylor, Matt Nordfjord, Tim Morgan, Teri Morgan, Lindsey LaForte, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Banas at 6:33 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room "D & E" of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the November 5, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2018 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Morgan.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO APPROVE A CONSENT AGENDA CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

2. Health Department
 - a. Resolution to Amend the Infectious Disease Physician Services Agreement with Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine – Tuberculosis Program
 - b. Resolution to Authorize an Administrative Service Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan at the Ingham County Jail
 - c. Resolution to Authorize Renewal of a Collaborative, Services and Referral Agreement with Community Mental Health of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties
 - d. Resolution to Re-Appoint Chief Medical Examiner

4. Controller's Office - Resolution Approving Various Contracts for the 2019 Budget Year

Commissioner Morgan arrived to the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Fair - Fair Foundation Fundraising for New Grandstand (*Discussion*)

Steven Taylor, Fair Foundation, stated that they formed a committee with four members of the Fair Board and two of the Fair Foundation to fundraise for the Grandstand. He further stated that there was a lot of conversation about the Grandstand in the community.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Grandstand had been removed for about five years and it was time to change that as the events were getting smaller. He further stated that he personally wanted to take this on because he owned the tack shop on the Fairgrounds and had been there for about 15 years.

Mr. Taylor stated that he was often at the Fairgrounds more than at home and he heard what the public thought about the Fairgrounds. He further stated that they had an idea of making a memory garden next to the Grand Stand, filled with blocks, bricks, and messages, in exchange for a donation to the Grandstand.

Mr. Taylor stated that the committee formed about a month ago and continued to develop ideas about fundraising.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that Mr. Taylor was extremely involved in the Fair. She further stated that the Fairgrounds was booked almost every weekend.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that the Fair revenues were down and the lack of Grandstand contributed to that. She further stated that she had heard from people in the community upset about the lack of the Grandstand.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she would like explore all opportunities for funding for this.

Mr. Taylor stated that he met with Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, to talk about fundraising. He further stated that the Grandstand Committee wanted to explore options such as naming rights to the Grandstand.

Mr. Taylor also said that there was a possibility of using Act 11 of 1929 for funding. He further stated that Act 11 of 1929 was developed for counties who owned their Fairgrounds.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Act allowed the County to enact 1/10 of a mill tax to fund the Fairgrounds and it was estimated that it may raise \$700,000 per year for the Fairgrounds. He further stated that he was not sure a lot of people were aware of that option.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that it may sound ridiculous if you had not been involved in the Fair, but there were many families such as the Dart Family and Rayner Family who may want to put money into the Grandstand. She further stated that the Fair was popular in the community.

Commissioner Tennis asked if the Committee was specifically discussing the Grandstand funding tonight.

Chairperson Banas stated that when this item was put on the agenda, it was specifically concerning fundraising for the Grandstand. She further stated that the Fair Foundation was looking for general permission to proceed.

Discussion.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Grandstand Committee wanted permission to start fundraising. He further stated that they would like to know where they needed to be dollar-wise before exploring building options.

Chairperson Banas stated that there was no current funding and the estimated project cost was about \$3 million.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that the Committee could decide when to put an RFP for an architectural study out and then go from there.

Commissioner Banas asked if the building would be owned by the County.

Mr. Taylor stated that it would be gifted to the County by the Fair Foundation as they have done with other buildings.

Commissioner Tennis stated that it was brilliant to try to sell the naming rights for the Grandstand, but the County should retain the final say to avoid having it named something that the County may find offensive.

Commissioner Nolan asked about the cost for original architectural study for the Grandstand and Exposition Center.

Mr. Taylor stated that it was estimated that an architectural study would cost about \$65,000 for the Grandstand and Exposition Center.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if this was just discussion with a nod of the head or did the Committee need to approve a formal resolution.

Ms. Morton stated that if the Fair Foundation received a nod they could go ahead with the fundraising.

Matt Nordfjord, County Attorney, stated that the County did not give general approval of what the Fair Foundation could fundraise, but could guide the process a bit. He further stated that he had worked with another county recently to provide naming rights for their fairgrounds and it was an extensive, detailed contract.

Mr. Nordfjord stated that he would be able to work with the Controller's Office and Fair Foundation to put together a naming policy.

Commissioner Sebolt asked if any First Amendment rights would apply to what was printed on the bricks.

Mr. Nordfjord stated that people could have the freedom to print whatever they wanted, unless everyone was limited to only using family names or by some other formula.

Chairperson Banas asked if they could avoid having hate groups printing messages on the bricks.

Mr. Nordfjord stated that the County could not have a blanket restriction of who they could sell too. He further stated that the Fair Foundation could possibly not accept some donations.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that if the Fair Foundation heard anyone interested in naming rights they should contact the Board of Commissioners, Controller's Office, and County Attorney right away.

Mr. Taylor stated that the idea for the garden was to use the shape of the double Ferris wheel for the bricks, but many other ideas were coming out. He further stated that the attendance at the Fair was over 26,000 people last year.

Mr. Taylor stated that over the last 70 years many people had been touched by the Fair and he expected the general public support to be overwhelming.

Chairperson Banas asked Mr. Taylor to contact Mr. Cypher and Mr. Nordfjord to work out a naming rights policy in order to get this right. She further stated that she would like to say thank you to the Fair Foundation for pulling this together as the Fair was culturally important to the County.

Chairperson Banas asked if anyone can watch the entire event without the Grandstand.

Mr. Taylor stated that was true that anyone could watch and many people stood along the fence near the tack shop in order to watch. He further stated that this was a huge revenue loss.

Chairperson Banas stated that the Fair Foundation was not in this alone. She asked them to please come back and keep the Committee informed of what was happening.

Mr. Taylor asked if they could start fundraising and selling bricks.

Commissioner Banas stated that they could.

Ms. Morton asked about seeking an RFP.

Chairperson Banas stated that the Grandstand Committee could get the fundraising going now and check back in the new year to start an RFP process.

Mr. Taylor asked what would be the golden amount to have raised before asking for approval for the RFP.

Chairperson Banas stated that the estimated project cost was \$3 million, so if they came back with \$50,000 raised that would be attractive.

3. Parks Department

a. NRPA Kompan Prize Memo

Banas stated that the Trails Coordinator Melissa Buzzard, was given an award which included a prize of a Yeti Cooler which was valued over the \$25 limit set in the Ethics Policy.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN, TO ALLOW MELISSA BUZZARD TO RECEIVE THE PRIZE.

Chairperson Banas stated that she would like to discuss this a bit. She further stated that the company who donated this prize was a potential vendor of playground equipment.

Chairperson Banas stated Parks Department was looking for some guidance because sometimes these prizes include cash awards up to \$3,000. She further stated that Ms. Buzzard wanted to be comfortable that this was ok receive.

Tim Morgan, Parks Department, stated that County policy was a \$25 limit for employees and this prize was about \$200 value. He further stated that Ms. Buzzard told the vendor that she would have to get approval before receiving the prize.

Mr. Morgan stated that he would like to give kudos to her and his entire staff for understanding and trying to abide by the conflict of interest policy.

Commissioner Morgan asked what year that \$25 amount was set.

Mr. Nordfjord stated that the Ethics Policy was first set up in the 1990s. He further stated that the limit was \$25 but it was predicated by a number of things, including the company being a current vendor.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Parks Department staff steered clear of any possible conflicts and typically considered the dollar amount.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that it seemed like a very low dollar amount and it was different to get a cooler versus a \$3,000 cash prize.

Commissioner Morgan stated that it did seem to be quite low as \$25 and that amount did not go very far.

Chairperson Banas stated that it was nice to be transparent.

Commissioner Triplett stated that he had no problem approving this. He further stated that for comparison, the Michigan Legislature's threshold was \$60.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion.

3. Parks Department

b. Purchase of Real Property Pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) (*Closed Session*)

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MORGAN AT 7:02 P.M., TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(D).

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Absent: None.

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. SEBOLT, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 7:34 P.M.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED BY COMM. SEBOLT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TENNIS, TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion.

Banas stated that the next Committee meeting, on December 3, 2018, will start at 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. due to the Chief Public Defender Interviews.

Commissioner Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Joy Gleason, Fair Board Member, stated that she was also on the Grandstand Committee. She further stated that Commissioner Naeyaert was a great voice for the people of the Southwestern part of the County who supported the Fair.

Ms. Gleason stated that there are people throughout the County who were fans and friends of the Fair. She further stated that the Northwestern corner of the County was often forgotten when it came to the Fair.

Ms. Gleason stated that there were two 4-H Clubs in the City of Lansing. She further stated that she would like to see people throughout the County to be involved in this fundraising effort.

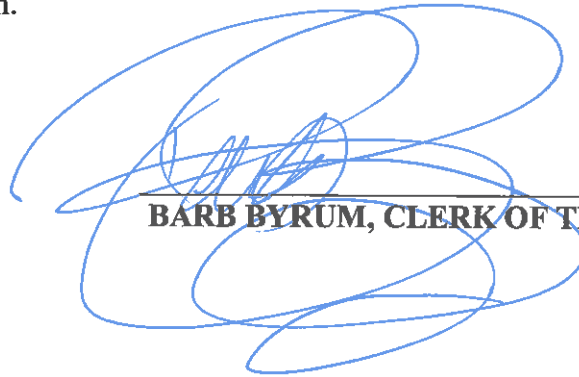
Ms. Gleason stated that she hoped that it would be different this time around and the fundraising to be a true a community-wide effort. She further stated that all the Board of Commissioners members had constituents that may be interested in this fundraising.

Ms. Gleason stated that the Grandstand Committee needed all the hands that they could get in order to involve everyone in this fundraiser. She further stated that the Committee members knew who were movers and shakers in their communities.

Ms. Gleason asked the Committee members to please reach out to those who may be able to help with this fundraiser. She further stated that she was disappointed that the Grandstands would not be built in 2019, but 2020 was a good time to start something new.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

