



## WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### WORKING SESSION

MAY 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ouimet at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comms. Grewal, Gunn, Irwin, Ouimet, Schwartz, and Sizemore.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comms. Bergman, Ping Mills, Peterson, Lovejoy Roe, and Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Behen, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrators; Nancy Thelen, Andrea Plevak, MSU Extension; Denise Dalrymple, Children's Services; Amy Klinke, Community Development; Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Gordon Burger, Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Peter Ballios, Finance; Ken Schrader, Information Technology; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

#### **Roll Call**

#### **Citizen Participation**

Jeremy Keeney, 5736 Willis Road, Augusta Township introduced himself as a new member of the Willow Run School Board.

#### **Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation**

Comm. Sizemore stated that Keeney is very dedicated, and has served the WATT Committee for a couple of years.

#### **Discussion Items:**

#### **Planning Process: Children's Well-Being**

Denise Dalrymple gave the Planning Process: Children's Well-Being Presentation (On file in County Clerk's Office).

Kenney stated that he has been a WATT intern for about a year. He discussed the youth mapping program and stated that he had the opportunity to work in small groups. He added that this is the only opportunity for development for a lot of these youth. He stated that he again looks forward to working with community youth mapping.

Comm. Gunn thanked presenters and recognized Nancy Thelen for her work.

Comm. Grewal thanked Dalrymple for her presentation. Comm. Grewal stated that as presented child abuse and foster care were up 17%, and asked whether these categories are lumped together. The categories are separate, but that she lumped them together because they saw the same increase. She stated that part of this has to do with community standards. She added that there is a stake in the County as to what the FIA is doing. Comm. Grewal asked if the definition of abuse has changed. Dalrymple stated that the definitions and standards have changed over time, and that a harder line is now taken. Comm. Grewal stated that awareness has gone up in the community.

Comm. Grewal asked if the County has good reach to the clients. Dalrymple stated that the system is unbalanced, because the bulk of the money is spent on high end cases. She stated that she was at a conference, which estimated that 85% of the money is spent on 15% of the children. She added that funding is an issue at various levels of government. She stated that she would like to have more money spent on early intervention programs and added that keeping up with current cases and funding are the issues with this.

Comm. Ouimet stated that it is interesting that the 80/20 rule applies, and added that this is a shame. He asked how working with the consortium that includes the United Way has been going. Dalrymple stated that she is amazed by progress that has been made. She added that a challenge is finding funding. Comm. Ouimet stated that he is concerned with benchmarking. He stated that he has been working on this with United Way. Comm. Ouimet stated that cooperation with MSU and 4-H is inspiring. He stated that this comes from leadership provided to children.

Behen stated that Children's Services has put together an excellent budget and planning write up. He added that Children's Well-Being has led the way in this area and has set five major goals measured in 06/07 and that will be measured again in 08/09.

#### **Planning Process: Housing & Homelessness**

Amy Klinke gave the Housing and Homelessness Presentation. (On file in County Clerk's Office)

Comm. Ouimet referenced the 7 per week foreclosure number. He stated that he attended a meeting with bank owners on steps people can take to prevent foreclosure. He stated that does not want to see parallel tracks run in this field. Comm. Ouimet stated that how the County is going to deal with the vast increases of foreclosures is going to be a large issue, another is getting people to avoid foreclosure and providing assistance in the field of prevention is another. He stated that he would like to see steps to alleviate the issue communicated to the County.

Comm. Schwartz asked about the term "appreciation covenant." Klinke stated that this term refers to steps needed to keep housing affordable. She added that it deals with the amount a home can appreciate while occupied by an owner. She stated that how much the amount would appreciate applies to the term. Comm. Schwartz asked if this is government owned housing. Klinke responded that it is not. Comm. Schwartz stated that this is an interesting strategy.

Comm. Schwartz asked for a description of the West Willow Project. Klinke stated that Comm. Sizemore championed this effort. She added that focus groups were developed from the neighborhood. She stated that a Steering Committee in the neighborhood then came up with an action plan. She stated that three areas of concentration in the action plan include: safety, housing quality, and youth and recreation. Comm. Schwartz stated that West Willow has been a victim of circumstances, and added that he would like to see more of an identity for the neighborhood.

Comm. Sizemore stated that the County staff and neighborhood residents have pulled together on this project. He added that what is trying to be done is give the residents leadership in the neighborhood. He added that he is proud of the departments working on this project.

Comm. Irwin stated that Klinke has been a part of a lot of wonderful experiences in the County, and that he has been proud to be a part of many of these projects. Comm. Irwin asked about the code enforcement idea, and about some of the investment that is being contemplated. Klinke stated that the idea is that safety in rental units will be maintained. Klinke stated that this program pays for itself. Comm. Irwin asked how the program pays for itself and asked if there is a County investment. Klinke responded that there is no County investment.

Comm. Sizemore stated that the program is modeled after the Ypsilanti City program. Comm. Sizemore stated that he has asked for some code books from 2006. He added that this will be a model in West Willow.

#### **County Administrator Report**

None

#### **Space Plan Update**

Zwolensky stated that the space planning process has really gotten started, and added that planners have been in town three times in the last two weeks. Zwolensky stated that the planners toured the jail on May 7. He stated that a master planning session took place on May 8. He added that on May 15 engineers explored the jail to determine the current state of mechanical equipment. He added that the design team is taking information compiled and developing a Space Program. Zwolensky presented what is next on the jail project.

Zwolensky stated that there have been a few programming sessions with Judge Simpson and his staff on the Saline Court. He reported that the project is still running on schedule. He added that he expects a draft program the week of May 21 for review. He added that there will be a conceptual floor plan the week of May 21.

**Items for Current/Future Discussion**

**Pending**

- June 21                      Planning Process: Global Summarization  
   State Legislators' visit

**Citizen Participation**

Nancy Thelen introduced Andrea Plevak, the new Community Development Extension Educator.

**Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation**

None

**Adjournment**

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to adjourn until Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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Rolland Sizemore, Chair

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register  
By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: