WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

June 4, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Gunn, Irwin, Judge, Ouimet, Ping, Prater, Schwartz, and Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman (excused), Judge, Ping, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:: Bob Guenzel, County Administrator; Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrator; Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens, ETCS; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Tony VanDerworp, Strategic Planning; Jim Zwolensky, Support Services; Greg Dill, Sheriff's office; Ken Schrader, ITS; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation
None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation
None

Construction Update
Jim Zwolensky presented the Construction Update (on file in County Clerk's office).

Discussion Items:
Update on the ETCS Youth Summer Program – Trenda Rusher
Trenda Rusher and Jenny Bivens presented the update on the ETCS Youth Summer Program (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin stated that he is glad to see federal dollars being put to work and thanked ETCS. He asked who matches youth with job placements. Rusher reported that the team at ETCS does this work based on assessment of skills and available work.

Comm. Ouimet asked about the structure of positions. Rusher reported that applicants are asked to learn the work. She reported that the youth will make minimum wage except for older youth and those in supervisory positions.

Comm. Schwartz asked if there will be opportunities in agriculture and food processing. Bivens reported that there will be opportunities and added that meetings have taken place with Food Gatherers, Growing Hope, and a local farm group.

Presentation on Region Success – Anthony VanDerworp
Tony VanDerworp gave the Presentation on Region Success (on file in County Clerk's office). Rick Sheraton and Mike Finney were also present.

Comm. Peterson asked how the issue of image and reputation of public school systems can be addressed and whether it is possible to charge this community with the responsibility. Sheraton stated that no school district in the County is an island. He added that Success by 6 has been important in getting children a positive early start.

Sheraton stated that he feels it will be important for the business community to be a part of the discussion. Comm. Peterson stated that this is going to be long term and must be rolled in with economic development. He added that he would like to see corporate leadership lent for this cause. Sheraton thanked the Board and Ann Arbor SPARK for support. He added that he feels that Michigan is leading the way in dealing with globalization.

Comm. Gunn thanked the presenters and added that she feels that the young professionals network is one of the most important aspects to keeping children in school.

Comm. Sizemore asked if the group gets into the business aspects of schools. VanDerworp reported that those issues would be in the work plan if the model currently being used could be applied. Comm. Sizemore stated that he would like to work together to discuss Willow Run Schools.

Comm. Irwin thanked all involved and stated that it is important to step back regularly and look at the project as a whole. He stated that there is not an action plan around school district consolidation. Comm. Irwin stated that transportation infrastructure is also very important and will provide economic development.

Comm. Ouimet stated that the lack of money will force a lot of this discussion. He added that a positive thing that will come out of these groups is that everyone is focused on making things better. He added that he also likes the fact that the groups circle back and revisit issues.

Comm. Schwartz thanked the presenters and added that he feels that Washtenaw has been a successful County for many years. He stated that he would like to see nutrition, health, and physical education for children. Comm. Schwartz stated that resources for children in math would also be positive.

County Administrator's Report
None

Items for Current/Future Discussion
Comm. Sizemore stated that he is proud of ETCS and added that Lake Shore Family Festival will be held at a location that used to be Lake in the Woods Apartments. He stated that this location is slated to become a golf course and that more youth are now moving in. Comm. Sizemore stated that Governor Granholm was talking about a rail system and stated that he would like to see about the possibility of building rail cars at facilities that may soon become available.

Comm. Prater stated that the Road Commission has developed their core plan on preservation maintenance and added that he would like to schedule the Road Commission to present. Comm. Schwartz stated that Comm. Ping could be consulted.

Pending
None

Citizen Participation
None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation
None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Irwin moved to adjourn until Thursday, July 9th, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Ken Schwartz, Vice Chair

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

APPROVED: 7/8/09