



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

October 21, 2010

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Prater, Schwartz, and Sizemore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Judge, Ouimet, Peterson, Ping, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; William Reynolds, Deputy County Administrator; Bob Tetens, Parks and Recreation; Dave Shirley, Facilities Management; Ken Schrader, ITS; Joanna Bidlack, County Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

Lily Au, Ann Arbor, stated that she would like to discuss the coordinated funding issue. She stated that she does not feel that United Way should be a part of the coordinated funding proposal. Au stated that the City Council has no participation scheduled before their meeting. She stated that the United Way has been added to corruption in the past. She stated that the proposal in total is \$5 million. Au added that money leads to a power center which leads to corruption. She added that this proposal would lead to anger from groups like the ACLU.

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items:

Jail and Court Project Update – *Dave Shirley and Bill Reynolds*

(on file in County Clerk's office)

The Jail and Court Project update was presented by Dave Shirley (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Prater asked why the Washtenaw entrance came in so far under budget. Shirley reported that bids came in lower than estimated and added that this is a current trend in construction.

Comm. Sizemore stated that MDOT is also helping with the right turn lane off of Washtenaw. He asked if Clark Construction is still on site. Shirley reported that Clark is down to one representative on site.

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like to thank Shirley for his work on this project. Comm. Bergman added thanks.

Comm. Schwartz stated that Shirley and Fee did an excellent job on taking over this project.

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Transit Master Plan – *Community Services Coordinator Michael Benham*

(on file in County Clerk's office)

Michael Benham presented the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Transit Master Plan (on file in County Clerk's office).

Comm. Irwin stated that he appreciates the outreach on the development of this plan. He added that he is pleased that professionals and AATA are working on this project. Comm. Irwin stated that it may be beneficial to add information on density when looking at the feasibility of light rail. He added that the numbers in this community do not vary much from communities that have made investments in transit. Comm. Irwin stated that arts and culture could also be folded in to the presentation. Benham stated that he has an intern looking at the density around the Wally Port against other similar settings. He added that users are getting hurt along with merchants when transit is unavailable.

Comm. Gunn stated that she is glad to see that the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti corridor is being examined. She added that she worked on the original Tel-Tran campaign and stated that the AATA is now very successful.

Comm. Prater asked how people are weaned from their automobiles. Benham stated that Wi-Fi was added to the Chelsea Commuter bus to add productive use of time. Comm. Prater asked for the plan to get people to pay for it. Benham stated that coming up with an exciting plan is key. He stated that generating a vision is going to be done before discussing funding. Comm. Prater stated that he is concerned that not enough is being offered for citizens of the County. Benham stated that planners are trying to get input from citizens to develop the plan. Comm. Prater stated that this is the issue of cost versus value. Comm. Sizemore asked if employees give input. Benham reported that employees have had input.

Comm. Sizemore asked why traffic lights are not geared more toward buses. Benham stated that this is an example of things that are out of AATA control. He added that more needs to be done with local units of government. Comm. Sizemore asked if buses could be rented. Benham stated that he could investigate. Comm. Sizemore stated that upgrading bus stops to ADA compliance on the east side of the County is another issue of concern. Comm. Sizemore stated that Bob Tetens has allowed screens to be added to exercise equipment to put information about EMU and the County on display. He added that he would like to seek grant money to be added for similar programs on buses. Comm. Sizemore stated that the community has been engaged and stated that he appreciates it.

Comm. Schwartz stated that the number of seniors is growing at a faster pace than the County population. He asked if there are amenities that can be provided to seniors. Benham stated that Ride Connect does travel training. He added that this thought needs to be expanded to appeal to seniors. Comm. Schwartz stated that he would like to see some train travel developed in this area. He added that it will be used if it is built.

Comm. Prater asked if there have been thoughts of comparing SEMCOG data with historical data. He stated that they have missed the mark many times on their forecasts. Benham stated that he has been weary and added that there has been nothing else to use. Comm. Schwartz stated that it is good to get public input up front and stated that he would like to commend Benham and his staff.

County Administrator's Report

Verna McDaniel stated that the organization has exceeded the goal set for United Way donations. She stated that there are two blood drives this week.

McDaniel reported that she would like to present a dashboard report on initiatives since becoming Administrator.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Gunn stated that she would like to urge people to vote yes on Proposal A, the Natural Areas Preservation Program.

Comm. Sizemore stated that she would echo the comments and added that he would like to thank Tetens for his work.

Comm. Prater stated that he has found that Mark Boonstra is wrong. He stated that the seven meetings claimed were during all of 2009 and not during a day.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Prater seconded by Comm. Irwin moved that the meeting be adjourned until November 4th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Ken Schwartz, Vice Chair

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

APPROVED: November 3, 2010