HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
July 20, 2020
Minutes

Members Present: Trubac, Stivers, Tennis, Koenig, Morgan, Slaughter, and Naeyaert.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Jared Cypher, Lindsey McKeever, Timothy Morgan, Krystal Davis, Elaine Fischhoff, Michael Yanz, Craig Lyons, Andrew Kennedy, Lori Noyer, Randy Dykhuis, and Michael Tanis.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Trubac at 6:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-154 regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Approval of the June 15, 2020 Minutes

CHAIRPERSON TRUBAC STATED THAT, WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2020 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

Additions to the Agenda

Removed –
2. Parks Department
   b. Resolution to Authorize Fees for Camping at Burchfield Park

Substitute –
2. Parks Department
   c. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Laux Construction LLC for Burchfield Park Improvements

Limited Public Comment

Michael Yanz, Ingham County Fair Board Chairperson, stated that he wanted to acknowledge that the Ingham County Fair Board supported the passage of Agenda Item No. 1.

Randy Dykhuis, City of Lansing resident, stated that he was strongly in favor of Agenda Item No. 4a. He further stated that the effects of climate change was something that people experienced, as it had an impact on the weather in Michigan.
Mr. Dykhuis stated that it was important for local governments to go on record to recognize the severity of the crisis and the need to take action. He further stated that while he strongly supported the passage of Agenda Item No. 4a, he also encouraged the Board of Commissioners to take the next step to get active in reducing the impact of climate change from now and into the future.

Elaine Fischhoff, City of Lansing resident, stated that she belonged to both the League of Women Voters of Lansing Area (LWVLA) and Lansing Environmental Action Team (LEAT). She further stated that she supported the passage of Agenda Item No. 4a.

Ms. Fischhoff stated that she hoped that the adoption of the resolution would signal recognition of climate emergency and would sensitize the Board of Commissioners into taking climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice into consideration in making its decisions. She further stated that 17,400 governments had adopted this resolution in 30 countries covering 830,000,000 people.

Ms. Fischhoff stated that the LWVLA, the League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWVMi), and the national League of Women Voters (LWV) passed this resolution. She further stated that there were other cities and entities in Michigan that had also adopted this resolution, including the City of Kalamazoo, the County of Kalamazoo, the City of Ann Arbor, the County of Washtenaw, and the County of Oakland.

Andrew Kennedy, City of Lansing resident, stated that he enthusiastically supported the passage of Agenda Item No. 4a. He further stated that this was an important issue for the community because of its current and future impact.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the community already experienced unusual weather patterns, increased flooding, and extreme heat. He further stated that, for example, a recent study that was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) found an association between the worsening air qualities due to climate change and pre-term births and pregnancy complications, in particular affecting minority women, and so this was an issue of racial and economic justice.

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

2. Parks Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize the Revenue Collection of Parks Vehicle Entrance Fees at the Lake Lansing Boat Launch
   c. Resolution to Authorize a Contract with Laux Construction LLC for Burchfield Park Improvements

3. Health Department
   a. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Drug and Laboratory Disposal, Inc.
   b. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Ingham Health Plan Corporation
   c. Resolution to Authorize a 2020-2021 Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Delivery of Public Health Services Under the Comprehensive Agreement
d. Resolution to Accept Ryan White Part D Covid-19 Funding Award from HRSA

e. Resolution to Accept U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Provider Relief Funds

f. Resolution to Accept U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Provider Relief Funds

g. Resolution to Extend Ob/Gyn Physician Services Agreement with Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association

h. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Michigan State University College of Nursing for Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Services

4. Human Services and County Services Committees

b. Resolution Authorizing the Ingham County Racial Equity Taskforce to Accept Donations

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

1. Fair Office – Resolution to Host a Halloween Event at Ingham County Fairgrounds

MOVED BY COMM. TENNIS, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Koenig stated that, while the Fair Board passed Agenda Item No. 1, there were two dissenting votes, and she was one of the two votes.

Discussion.

Lindsey McKeever, Fairgrounds Events Director, gave a presentation on Agenda Item No. 1 to the Human Services Committee.

Commissioner Koenig asked how much money the Fairgrounds Fair Food Drive-Thru event made.

Ms. McKeever stated that the event made $11,000 through donations from the food concessioners.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked how many hours was the Fairgrounds Fair Food Drive-Thru event.

Ms. McKeever stated that the event occurred over four days from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if she was correct that the proposed Halloween event would be over thirteen days.

Ms. McKeever stated that she was correct.
Commissioner Slaughter asked how much it cost to put on the Fairgrounds Fair Food Drive-Thru event.

Ms. McKeever stated that it had cost the County no money to put on the event.

Commissioner Slaughter asked if he was correct that the Fairgrounds Fair Food Drive-Thru event made $11,000 but had virtually zero expenses.

Ms. McKeever stated he was correct. She further stated that the concessioners had plugged their equipment into their electric, but she did not know the expense of that.

Commissioner Koenig asked if she was correct that the Fairgrounds Fair Food Drive-Thru tickets did not cost anyone any money.

Ms. McKeever stated that she was correct. She further stated that the event was free to the public, and it was extremely successful and received no complaints.

Ms. McKeever continued to give the presentation on Agenda Item No. 1 to the Human Services Committee.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked how many members were on the Fair Board.

Ms. McKeever stated that there were fourteen members.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if she was correct that two members of the Fair Board disapproved of Agenda Item No. 1.

Ms. McKeever stated that she was correct.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if she was correct that the drive-thru would be easy to access in case of inclement weather or COVID-19-related restrictions.

Ms. McKeever stated that she was correct. She further stated that the Fairgrounds would have to make the decision to have either a walk-thru or a drive-thru event based on Governor Whitmer’s Executive Orders at the time, but she thought it could be done with social distancing measures.

Ms. McKeever stated that the numbers were presented to the Human Services Committee were based on 20 percent capacity. She further stated that the Fairgrounds needed to sell the same amount of tickets sold during the Fair, or half the amount of people seen per day at the Fair.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she had told many people about the proposed Halloween event, and everyone thought it was a fantastic idea. She further stated that she fully supported the event, as the amount of funding used for the event would be the same amount used for the Fair.
Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she was pleased to hear that Debbie Katz Productions would allow the deposit of the proposed Halloween event to be used next year, since if it was successful this year, the Fairgrounds would be expected to do the event next year.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the reason she was a dissenting vote on Agenda Item No. 1 was that she wanted the Board of Commissioners to discuss it. She further stated that the Fair Board members were hesitant about the proposed Halloween event because it would cost a lot of money.

Commissioner Koenig stated that for every event the Fairgrounds had done, in terms of hosting musical acts and HGTV, the most money ever spent was $30,000 and every one had been a failure. She further stated that it did not mean this event would be, and so she wanted to commend Ms. McKeever for putting it together because otherwise the Fairgrounds had no events.

Commissioner Koenig stated that the Fairgrounds was experiencing one of those years where the Board of Commissioners would have to supplement it or make a decision about its future. She further stated that there were financial shortfalls in other places, so this was a serious conversation for the Board of Commissioners to have.

Commissioner Koenig stated that, to sell 45,000 tickets, and there were 250,000 in Ingham County, that would mean that one out of every five people in Ingham County would be coming to the event, and she did not know if that was likely to happen. She further stated that, to sell 18,000 tickets at the minimum price point, and that would mean that one of every thirteen people in Ingham County would be coming to the event.

Commissioner Koenig stated that at $8.00 per ticket, and 45,000 people purchased tickets, that equaled $360,000. She further stated that if $150,000 were subtracted for the cost of putting on the event, the Fairgrounds would make $210,000 from the event.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she would love to see the event sell out, but she did not think that the likelihood was high, but it did mean that it was not worth trying. She further stated that she wanted the Board of Commissioners to understand that this event was a risk.

Commissioner Koenig asked if the event would be A.D.A. accessible and if it was required to be A.D.A. accessible.

Ms. McKeever stated that she did not know if the event was required to be A.D.A. accessible under Michigan law, but she assumed that it was required. She further stated that the event would be A.D.A. accessible, with the exception of if the event experienced rainfall.

Commissioner Koenig asked if she was correct that Debbie Katz Productions had said that if the event was cancelled, the Fairgrounds could use their deposit for next year.

Ms. McKeever stated that she was correct. She further stated that the Fairgrounds would put down 20 percent and Debbie Katz Productions would carry it over to next year.
Commissioner Koenig stated that it was not a risk she was willing to take before because it would have cost the Fairgrounds $60,000, and it would not have been refundable. She further stated that she was glad that Ms. McKeever negotiated that.

Commissioner Koenig asked if Ms. McKeever personally knew Debbie Katz.

Ms. McKeever stated that she did not personally know her. She further stated that she had done business with her before.

Commissioner Koenig asked if she was correct that Ms. McKeever had worked with Debbie Katz before and had high confidence in Debbie Katz Productions.

Ms. McKeever stated that she had worked with other companies before that did similar events, but she would not say that she had a working relationship with Debbie Katz. She further stated that she had a good understanding of the pumpkin industry and these specific type of events.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she was attempting to get the Board of Commissioners all of the information she had. She further stated that, on the other side, there were events that sold out every year, and so it was possible this event could be sustainable for the Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Koenig asked how many people came to the Fair every year.

Ms. McKeever stated that 40,000 people came last year.

Commissioner Koenig asked if the event had hand carved pumpkins.

Ms. McKeever stated that the pumpkins were fake pumpkins dubbed Funkins. She further stated that, in the future, the Fairgrounds could display hand carved pumpkins, but pumpkins did not last long.

Commissioner Koenig stated that people knew there were shenanigans around Halloween time. She asked if Ms. McKeever had calculated security costs for the attraction.

Ms. McKeever stated no. She further stated that she had not considered it.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that he wanted to commend Ms. McKeever for thinking outside of the box, and that thinking was one of the reasons why the Board of Commissioners hired her. He further stated that he knew that she was doing work to expand the Fairgrounds to people who were not accustomed to coming to the City of Mason, including people in the City of Lansing.

Commissioner Slaughter asked Ms. McKeever if she had thought of a plan to devote money in the advertising budget for outreach to Black people and people of color.

Ms. McKeever stated that she would take that thought into consideration. She further stated that she had not specifically thought of that in the advertising plan, but there were enough dollars set aside to think about that.
Commissioner Slaughter stated that he thought it was important to bring different folks to the Fairgrounds and, for example, spending advertising dollars with minority media outlets.

Commissioner Tennis stated that Commissioner Koenig had mentioned that the Fairgrounds would need to sell a certain amount of tickets to breakeven. He asked if that included the vendor funds collected from Ms. McKeever’s idea of $10 jugs of cider or based solely on ticket purchases.

Commissioner Koenig stated that it was based on ticket purchases, but at a reduced cost. She further stated that 18,000 tickets at $8.00 per person was the breakeven point, but she thought that Ms. McKeever could better explain the numbers.

Ms. McKeever stated that the breakeven point was 18,750 tickets at $8.00 per person.

Commissioner Tennis stated that it looked like there could be additional vending options. He asked if Ms. McKeever had an estimate figure for what that could bring in.

Ms. McKeever stated that, as an estimate figure, the Fairgrounds could see at least $1,500 to $1,800 a night on cider alone. She further stated that another consideration would be to sell beer due to the profit margin.

Commissioner Tennis asked if that made the breakeven point easier.

Ms. McKeever stated yes.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she thought the draw of the event would be much broader than Ingham County residents. She further stated that, as Commissioner Slaughter said, she thought that this event reached every level of diversity because everyone got excited for Halloween, and this was the reason why the Board of Commissioners had hired Ms. McKeever.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked Jared Cypher, interim County Controller, if money for this event was in the Fairgrounds budget, or if it would be coming from the General Fund.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that anything done at the Fairgrounds involved a risk, and with big risk came big reward. She further stated that she knew of conversation regarding Ms. McKeever that she was not pleased to hear about at the last Fair Board meeting.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she wanted to dispel that to anyone who was listening to the Human Service Committee meeting. She further stated that Ms. McKeever was doing exactly what the Board of Commissioners hired her to do, and so she would vehemently protect her.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she knew that the Commissioners knew she was passionate about the Fairgrounds, but she wanted to be fiscally responsible as well. She further stated that she appreciated that Ms. McKeever had spent an enormous amount of time on this event.
Chairperson Trubac asked Ms. McKeever if he was correct that if the Fairgrounds decided to have the event be a drive-thru event, the event would only be a drive-thru for the duration of the event.

Ms. McKeever stated that the path allowed the event to be a drive-thru.

Chairperson Trubac asked if he was correct that it did not sound like the event could alternate between a walk-thru and drive-thru event.

Ms. McKeever stated that the displays would stay in the same place, but she thought the price point for the tickets would change from person to person to per vehicle. She further stated that she would like to move forward with selling tickets individually, and then if the event had to be switched, she would work it out with the ticketing company to issue refunds.

Chairperson Trubac asked, in the case of a drive-thru event, if the Fairgrounds would be looking at a less profitable event.

Ms. McKeever stated yes, but she would argue that it was still doable to breakeven. She further stated that the event would need 7,500 vehicles at $20.00 per vehicle to breakeven, which she did not think was many vehicles.

Ms. McKeever stated that the event could be more than thirteen days if it was a drive-thru event.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that he would agree with the Commissioners that said this was the reason why the Board of Commissioners hired Ms. McKeever. He further stated that, in the off-season, the Fairgrounds had been running at a deficit since 2011.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that the County knew that the Fairgrounds could not do that same events year-after-year and expect a different result. He further stated that, as Ms. McKeever’s direct supervisor, he believed she had been a homerun of a hire.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that this was a type of event, in a year like this year, that was not only a good idea but also a necessary idea because the traditional Fair had been cancelled. He further stated that the Board of Commissioners could vote against Agenda Item No. 1 and have horse shows for the rest of 2020, but he would guarantee that the Fair Fund would end in a deficit.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that the Fairgrounds had a current fund balance of $225,000, but he would give that balance a fifty-fifty shot of covering the shortfall from the cancellation of the Fair if Agenda Item No. 1 was not passed. He further stated that if Agenda Item No. 1 was passed, and it netted $100,000, it would still have been worthwhile because then the shortfall would be cut in half.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that, if the Fairgrounds made any money on this event, it would have been worth the effort because then the Fairgrounds’ shortfall was less. He further stated that it increased the likelihood of covering the shortfall at the end of the year without asking for a General Fund appropriation.
Commissioner Stivers stated that she loved the idea and would be bringing her family to this event. She further stated that she favored the drive-thru option and having additional nights for the event to take place.

Commissioner Stivers stated that she thought people would be more comfortable buying their tickets far in advance due to COVID-19. She further stated that if there was some way to have the cider and donuts at the event, she thought it would be fantastic.

Commissioner Stivers stated that it was a matter of figuring out how to make the event accessible to people who did not own vehicles. She further stated that she wondered if the Fairgrounds could partner with Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) for busses to take people through the event, but that could be difficult due to social distancing measures.

Ms. McKeever stated that she wondered if the Fairgrounds could have a drive-thru event for some nights for people concerned about COVID-19, and then have a walk-thru event other nights.

Discussion.

Commissioner Morgan stated that there was a lot he was going to say about Agenda Item No. 1, between ideas of micromanaging or the prospect of individual Commissioners invoking direct reports of employment, but he supported Agenda Item No. 1. He further stated that this event was the reason why the Board of Commissioners hired Ms. McKeever.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the event was a risk, but the County could also be back where they were fourteen months ago. He further stated that he had no reason to stand in Ms. McKeever’s way, and was prepared to roll the dice to try something new because otherwise the Fairgrounds time was short.

Chairperson Trubac stated that he would supported Agenda Item No. 1. He further stated that he came into the Human Services Committee meeting leaning the opposite direction because he was a risk-averse individual, but he loved Halloween and thought that people needed things to do right now.

Chairperson Trubac thanked Ms. McKeever for all of her work putting the event together.

Commissioner Slaughter asked if the Fairgrounds was saving money because of the lack of the Fair.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that the Fairgrounds was saving some money from not having to pay, for example, for Grandstand attractions, but the County employed four people year-round at the Fairgrounds, so that was a significant cost factor. He further stated that was a place where the majority of costs would not be saved.
Commissioner Koenig stated that she was in favor of Agenda Item No. 1. She further stated that she wanted to be clear about the risk of this event since she did not know if all the Commissioners were there when the Board of Commissioners recently gave the Fairgrounds $150,000 and what came up was that the Fairgrounds had not been self-sufficient as intended.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she was not sure the reason for why the original resolution to make the Fairgrounds self-sufficient came about, but the Board of Commissioners had given the Fairgrounds money every five years. She further stated that, the last time this discussion came up, it was a serious discussion about whether or not the Board of Commissioners wanted to continue that process.

Commissioner Koenig stated that what the Fair Board talked about was that if the Fairgrounds suddenly became less important than other matters in the budget process, it was a no-brainer to choose a Health Center over the Fairgrounds. She further stated that it was not about doing a bad job, it was about if the Fairgrounds continued to fly under the radar by not requiring the Board of Commissioners not to supplement them, that was their best possible position.

Commissioner Koenig asked interim Controller Cypher what he meant when he said that if money was brought in from the event that was better than no money. She further asked, in terms of the $225,000 fund balance, if interim Controller Cypher had addressed the $60,000 that should not be there.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that Commissioner Koenig might have misunderstood him. He further stated that what he meant was that if there was a net-profit of $100,000 after expenses.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that if Ms. McKeever sold one ticket, that would not be good enough. He further stated that she needed to make a net-profit and he had confidence that she would be able to do that.

Interim Controller Cypher stated that there was a transfer from the Fair Fund recommended by the previous Finance Director that was not needed, just so that the Board of Commissioners knew. He further stated that, at the time, it was due to erroneous figures, but the previous Finance Director was no longer employed by Ingham County but that transfer was still in the Fair Fund.

Commissioner Koenig stated that was her point, that with the $150,000 for this event, and the $60,000 if it were to be transferred back because it had been erroneously transferred, the Fair Fund had $15,000 left over.

Ms. McKeever asked if the amount was $225,000.

Commissioner Koenig stated that she was correct. She further stated that with $225,000 subtracted by $150,000 for this event and the erroneous transfer of $60,000, that would leave the Fair Fund balance at $15,000. She further stated that she needed people to understand how serious this was.

Ms. McKeever stated that the Fairgrounds would no longer fly under the radar and would become a brand.
THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Human Services and County Services Committees
   a. Resolution to Declare a Climate Emergency

MOVED BY COMM. MORGAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. KOENIG, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Discussion.

Commissioner Morgan stated that Agenda Item No. 4a, as Elaine Fischhoff said, was brought to his and others attention by the LWVLA and LEAT a couple of weeks ago to see if the Board of Commissioners would be interested in taking action on it. He further stated that he was happy to work with a couple of his colleagues on expanding parts of the resolution, in particular the items to do with racial justice and the disproportionate effects of climate change on communities of color and other historically underserved communities.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Commissioners wanted the resolution to pair well with the Resolution to Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis in the County of Ingham. He further stated that this was a companion piece and he was happy to work with Ms. Fischhoff and the rest of the committee.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she had supported many other resolutions for the County and her colleagues, but when she got married twenty-six years ago on Christmas Eve, her then-husband asked if he could go golfing with his friends because of the warm weather. She further stated that there was a lot to be debated, but she would not be supporting Agenda Item No. 4a.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he likened climate change to the current crisis of COVID-19. He further stated that reaction to the pandemic has fallen along similar lines to climate change, where there were scientists who said one thing, but there were people who did not want to believe that it was real.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the difference was that, in a pandemic, people could see who was right and who was wrong. He further stated that, with climate change, it happened slowly enough that by the time it became obvious, it would be too late to fix, so the time to declare it an emergency was when there was still time to take action.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he agreed that Earth had experienced abnormalities of weather throughout history, but it had not experienced a steady increase in overall global temperatures like it has in the last fifty years since the age of the dinosaurs. He further stated that he fully supported Agenda Item No. 4a and hoped that enough of the world could come together to tackle this issue.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he knew that Agenda Item No. 4a would pass tonight, but he wanted to be on record saying that he hoped that no one called Commissioner Naeyaert any names for disagreeing with the other Commissioners.
Commissioner Naeyaert thanked Commissioner Morgan for his comments.

Chairperson Trubac stated that he wanted to thank Commissioner Morgan for his work on Agenda Item No. 4a. He further stated that he appreciated this resolution, and thought it was needed and past due.

Chairperson Trubac stated that the County had a responsibility to protect vulnerable populations from the worst of this crisis. He further stated that this was a crisis that people had the privilege to ignore, but not everyone had that privilege.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that he wanted reiterate Commissioner Morgan’s comments about Commissioner Naeyaert. He further stated that he was supportive of Agenda Item No. 4a because of his work before he became a Commissioner of working on climate change issues with a lens for people of color.

Commissioner Slaughter stated that he appreciated Commissioner Morgan’s work on this, and he had no hard feelings against those who did not support it. He further stated that, as he had said to others before, a difference of thought would hopefully get people to the right side.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED. **Yea:s** Trubac, Stivers, Tennis, Koenig, Morgan, Slaughter **Nay:s** Naeyaert **Absent:** None

**Announcements**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

[Signature]

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**BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD**