

January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on January 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections (Classroom) by the Chair.

Present: Helen Nelson - Chair
Linda Devore - Member
Irene Grimes - Secretary

Billy King - Member
James Baker - Member

Staff: Angela Amaro, William Helms

Guests: Efrain DelaCuz, John Czajkowski, Susan Chapman, John Zimmerman, Michael Haywood, Shamika Bethea, Kathy Button, Dick Button, Matthew Davis, Meta Weaver-Coaxum, N. Morton, Bree Eldridge, Michele Quinlan, Kelly Arnes, Mauel Mejia Diaz, Peter Alone, Amanda Turnmire, Nakiya Smith, Dr. Anthony Wade, Toni Morris, Gary Maher, Kaitlyn Potts, Sharon Lee, Jay P. (last name illegible)

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board add a closed session to the agenda as Item IX.

Second: Member Grimes
Vote: Unanimous in favor

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board table the approval of minutes to a later date.

Second: Member Baker
Vote: Unanimous in favor

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board accept the agenda as amended.

Second: Member Grimes
Vote: Unanimous in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT: There are six citizens signed up to speak during the public comment period and that they each will have 2 min. 30 sec. for their statements.

Efrain Delacruz (240 Summertime Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303): Opposing Early Voting Location in Spring Lake, NC. There are not a lot of people that will come out to vote in Spring Lake. Instead put another location in Fayetteville for the citizens of Fayetteville.

John Czajkowski (5973 Tamworth Court, Fayetteville, NC 28314): Keep Kiwanis Recreation Center open for early voting; it is a central location. Used by senior citizens in the surrounding community, and senior citizens do not have to worry about being intimidated by electioneers being spat at, cursed at, at that location. They feel safe at that location. Doing away with that location the Board would be discriminating against senior citizens and suppressing their vote.

Susan Chapman (2710 Creek Meadows Place #188, Fayetteville, NC 28304): Supports Early Voting site at Kiwanis over Spring Lake; Kiwanis has three times more voters than Spring Lake.

Shamike Bethea (1919 Wordsworth Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304): Supports Kiwanis as Early Voting Site; has used it several times. It is easy access and is at a central location. Voter turnout much higher at Kiwanis than Spring Lake. Cost too high to open site in Spring Lake; we should be wise with how we spend money.

Bree Eldridge (953 Pecan Grove Loop, Hope Mills, NC 28348): Prefers Kiwanis to stay open; better return on investment for taxpayer dollars. If Kiwanis is closed a lot of voters will be disenfranchised. Site has easy access.

Manuel Mejia Diaz (4512 Broadway Court, Hope Mills, NC 28348): There is a lot of energy behind elections and we should see higher turnout during upcoming elections. Don't forget the working class voters of Cumberland County, so please include hours that go past six o'clock and Saturday and Sunday. Kiwanis is very close to Smith Rec and all voters could vote at Smith Rec. Opening a site in Spring Lake would benefit all voters in the north of the county.

Interim Director Amaro presented the duplication plan for electronic ballots or ballots that cannot be read by the machines. Board Member Devore proposes that the following sentence be added: "Board Members will be notified of the scheduled time and place when duplicating will be performed so that they may observe the duplication of ballots"

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the following sentence be added to the end of the first paragraph: "Board Members will be notified of the scheduled time and place where the duplication will be performed so that they may observe the duplication of ballots"

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Voted 4/1 in favor (Nelson, Baker, Devore, Grimes/King)

Interim Director Amaro said that Culbreth Memorial United Methodist Church (Cross Creek 2) has closed. The proposed new site is Greater Works Deliverance Temple on S. Plymouth Street. (All voters will be notified by mail, and the change will be advertised in the Fayetteville Observer; party chairs will be notified).

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board adopt the resolution to move the location of precinct Cross Creek 2 (CC02 to the Greater Works Deliverance Temple on South Plymouth Street

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Interim Director presents the early voting plan (as compiled by staff).

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board approve the Early Voting Plan as presented.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Did not pass (Baker, Devore in favor; Nelson, King, Grimes oppose)

Member Grimes voices concern about the lack of voting on the first Saturday or any of the Sundays. Wants all sites open on all Saturdays and Sundays.

Member Devore says that it is not the practice of this Board to have all sites open on all Saturdays and Sundays during primaries. Cost of open Saturday and Sunday too high - not good turnout. Middle weekend is Mother's Day.

Member Baker inquires of the staff if we have ever had Saturday and Sunday voting during a primary. Interim Director Amaro responds that we have, in 2014. In 2018 we had two Saturdays.

Chair Nelson asks when the deadline is to submit the early voting plan to the State Board - February 18th, 2022.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that the Board discuss an alternate Early Voting Plan.

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Member Grimes proposes that her original plan be altered to include the seven sites as proposed by staff, but offers voting every day (including all Saturdays and all Sundays).

Answering a query from the Chair, interim Director Amaro says that the cost per site, per day is \$1,700.00.

Member Devore states that that creates an additional cost of \$35,000 for all seven sites and she does not see that as a wise investment of taxpayer monies; wants consistency.

Secretary Grimes says that for the sake of consistency primaries and general elections should be as similar as possible and hence Cumberland County Early Voting Sites should be open every day during the Primary.

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board approve an alternate plan: Seven sites as proposed by staff, open for voting the first Saturday and Sunday, not open the "middle" weekend (Mother's Day weekend).

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Voted 4/1 (Devore, Baker, Nelson, King; Grimes abstained)

*After a brief pause, Member Grimes changed her vote to "in favor" - the vote becomes "unanimous in favor"

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board approve an alternate plan: Seven sites as proposed by staff, open for voting the first Saturday and Sunday, not open the "middle"

weekend (Mother's Day weekend).

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Interim Director Amaro reports that Precinct Pearce's Mill 3 (located at the Board of Education Administrative Building) has to be moved temporarily, as the building has had a fire. Staff is searching for an alternate location.

Municipalities have been billed for the 2021 election; NCOA cards have been sent.

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board move into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Board moved into closed session at 5:36 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

The Board returned from closed session at 5:55 p.m.

Chair Nelson states that there is nothing to report from the closed session.


Adjournment

Motion: Member Devore

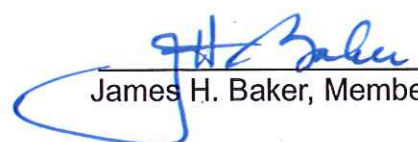
Second: Member Grimes

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

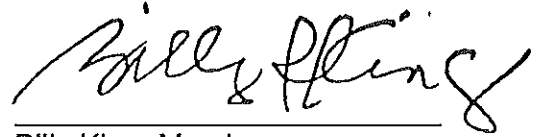

Irene Grimes, Secretary


Helen Nelson, Chair


James H. Baker, Member



Linda Devore, Member



Billy King, Member