

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
April 15, 2019

Chairman Tim McFalls called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members Terence Dicks, LC Myles, Sherry Barnes and Bob Finnegan. Also present were Executive Director Lynn Bailey, Assistant Director Travis Doss and members of the public.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the March 22, 2019 Regular Monthly and Election Certification Meeting. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the minutes be approved as disseminated. Mr. Finnegan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was a discussion of the possible relocation of the polling sites currently located at the Augusta University Christenberry Fieldhouse and the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church due to accessibility concerns. Ms. Bailey began the discussion by stating that a complaint was filed in May 2018 regarding the Augusta University building stating that the sidewalk and bus shelter infrastructure at the facility were inadequate to provide for adequate voter safety when attempting to access the voting building from Wrightsboro Road on foot or by chair.

Continuing, she stated that she had recently been informed by City of Augusta ADA Officer Carole Burrowbridge of her recent attendance at training that brought to her attention the requirement of a 60" turn radius for the top ramps requiring a turn in order to enter the access door. Ms. Bailey explained that according to Ms. Burrowbridge, the top of the ramp at Crawford Avenue Baptist Church currently provided a 48" turn radius instead of the required 60" turn radius.

Regarding the Augusta University facility, Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- The distance from AU to the Friedman Branch is .7 miles or a 2 minute drive
- Friedman Branch Library is available and has been approved by the Library Board of Trustees for use as a polling site.
- A preliminary inspection of Friedman Branch Library was completed by Board of Elections Staff, the Augusta Compliance Office, and the Risk Management Office. The facility was determined to meet all basic requirements to serve as a polling location with the exception of parking lot improvements to provide a van access parking place and a request to make the improvements has been filed with the proper City department.
- Assuming that the parking improvements will be made, staff would like to continue gathering information by inviting our partners at Walton Options to accompany staff on a site visit to the facility to provide input.
- November 1, 2019 will be the deadline for making a polling place change in time for the next upcoming election – the March 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.
- Approx. 2150 voters would be affected by this change.

A discussion then ensued regarding traffic congestion at the Friedman Branch Library and the ongoing sidewalk improvements in the area of the Friedman Branch Library. All Board members and staff shared the same concerns. Ms. Bailey stated that if the move was authorized by the Board, staff would recommend hiring a deputy to assist with traffic congestion in the area. Mr. Dicks asked staff to check on the location of the nearest bus shelter and the pedestrian route from the bus shelter to the library. Mr. Finnegan made a motion that the staff continue gathering information and report findings back to the Board. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Regarding the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church facility, Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- Recently, it came to the Board of Election's attention that the turn radius at the top of the ramp used to access the Fellowship Hall at the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church does not meet the current standards for ADA compliance. The current ramp and turn radius is 48", but the turn radius requirement is 60" in order to serve as a polling location. Because it is privately owned, the church is under no legal obligation to make the improvements, however, as the provider of a service program, the Board of Elections is under a legal obligation to ensure that the facilities that are used as polling locations meet the requirements of the ADA.
- Staff is actively looking for a solution including meeting with the church to see if site improvements are a possibility, and, if not, seeking an alternative polling location in the area.
- If a polling place change is required, the same November 1, 2019 deadline would apply in order to implement the change for the next upcoming election – the March 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

After some general discussion, Mrs. Barnes made a motion that staff proceed by contacting officials at Crawford Avenue Baptist Church, and, if the negotiations fail to then explore other options in the area. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Ms. Bailey stated that it was staff's intent to consult with Walton Options for Independent Living and to include their findings in the final report on the two polling locations.

The next agenda item was a discussion of Georgia's new voting system. Ms. Bailey began the discussion by stating that the deadline for vendors to submit their Request for Purchase to the State was April 23, 2019 and that it was anticipated a vendor would be selected by the middle of July. Continuing, she stated that a limited number of voting units is expected to be delivered to each county sometime in October 2019 with full deployment soon thereafter. Other matters regarding the system came up during the discussion including:

- Board members expressed their opinion that proper procedures for insuring the security and protection of the paper record generated by the system were paramount in providing for the overall integrity of the process and for bolstering voters' perception that ballots were accurately recorded, counted, and are secure.
- Board members inquired as to whether or not the current storage facility would be sufficient and were informed that it was adequate in size and operations.

- Concerns were expressed regarding the yet to be determined process for comparing the number of paper ballots cast each day during Advance Voting to the number of electronic ballots tabulated by the scanning/tabulation equipment.

During the ensuing discussion, Chairman McFalls stated for the record that the Board member's concerns were expressed out of the uncertainty caused by implementing a new system without full knowledge of the new procedures that would be required and were not reflective of the Board's confidence in the staff's ability to perform their jobs. Ms. Bailey stated that it was the consensus of state and local election officials in Georgia that new procedures and policies must be developed in order to provide proper security and a successful transition. Continuing, she stated that it was her expectation that the new procedures would be developed by the State Election Board in conjunction with local election officials and other subject matter experts. By consensus, the Board asked for a briefing from staff at all upcoming Regular Monthly Meetings.

The next agenda item was Old Business. Ms. Bailey stated that she was in receipt of paperwork from the Secretary of State's Office regarding the appointment of the two Democratic Party representatives to the Board, Ms. Marcia Brown and Mr. Terence Dicks. She stated that she was currently working with the Probate Court to schedule the swearing in and would keep the Board apprised.

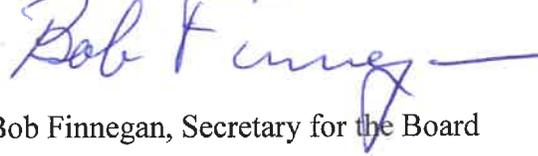
The next agenda item was New Business. The items for discussion were as follows:

- Ms. Bailey informed the Board that the Secretary of State's Office would soon be conducting a maintenance process that would compare the names and addresses of all active registered voters to the change of address information on file with the US Postal Service and that confirmation notices would be generated for each file that matched. Continuing, she stated that the confirmation notice sent to the voter would contain the voter's new address on file with the Post Office and a statement informing the voter that unless notified otherwise, their address would be automatically updated by the Board of Elections to the new address in 40 days. She further stated that no voter's names would be removed during the process, unless the removal is requested directly by the voter and in writing.
- Mr. Dicks commented on the quality of the recent training provided to election officials during the statewide training session. The other Board members and staff concurred.
- Chairman McFalls recognized the outstanding public service of outgoing Board member L.C. Myles stating that Mr. Myles would soon rotate off of the Board after 10 years of service. Board members and staff all expressed their appreciation for the long years of service and dedication shown by Mr. Myles. Mr. Myles expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and the integrity consistently demonstrated by the Board, which served to bolster public confidence that elections were administered fairly and votes counted accurately.
- Chairman McFalls recognized the new incoming Board Member Marcia Brown. Ms. Brown introduced herself and stated that she has been a resident of Richmond County since 1980, is a retired nurse, and has been an active member of the Richmond County Democratic Party since the early 2000's. She expressed her appreciation for having

received the appointment as a Board member and her desire to learn and carry out her duties according to the law. Board members welcomed Ms. Brown as a member.

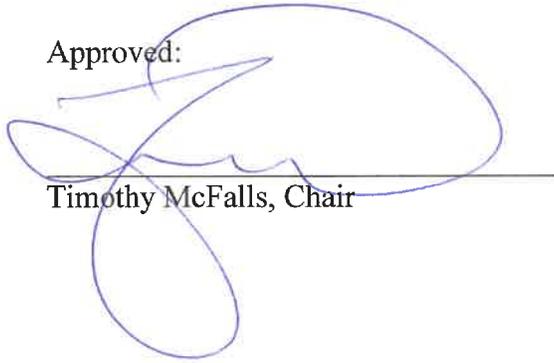
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dicks made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Finnegan, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair