

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



Tim Tsujii
Director

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Meeting Minutes

July 01, 2016 – 4 p.m.

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3. Moment of Silence
4. Public Comments
5. Petition Review
6. Discussion of One-Stop Voting Schedule for General Election
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FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Meeting Minutes
July 01, 2016

Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the fourth floor meeting room on July 01, 2016. The meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m., Chairman Raymond presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Ken Raymond, Secretary Stuart Russell, and Member Fleming El-Amin

Staff Members in attendance: Director Tim Tsujii, Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey
Monica Gary, and Kimberly Stuck

Other Staff: Lonnie Albright – Assistant County Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Raymond led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Raymond led a moment of silence.

Public Comments

Chairman Raymond opened the public comment session with instructions. Speakers were asked to complete a public comment card and would have two minutes or less to speak. The speaker's name and address should be stated for the record. Questions should be included during the allotted time and answers would be given at the close of the session. A speaker's time could not be given to another individual. At the close of the public comment session, no additional statements or questions would be heard from the public. The public comment session included the following speakers:

Carolyn Highsmith – 3335 Anderson Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27127

Michael Pisapia, PhD. WFU – Politics Dept – 311 Staffordshire Rd, Winston Salem, NC 27104

David Adjamy – 1022 Polo Rd, Winston Salem, NC 27106

Chris Flynt – 6111 Seward Rd., Pfafftown, NC 27040

Ronald Buchanon – 1772 Huntington Woods Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27103

Annette Scipio – 531 Barbara Jane Ave, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Jake Gellar-Goad – 5147 Winster Dr. – Apt# 303, Winston Salem, NC 27106

Ike Howard (WS/FC NAACP) – 8884 Red Bank Rd., Germanton, NC 27019

JoAnne Allen – PO Box 284, Winston Salem, NC 27102

Niyah Sansbury (WSSU Student) – 601 S. Martin Luther King Jr.Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27110

Khala Clemons (WSSU Student) – 601S. Martin Luther King Jr.Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27110

Michael Lewis – (WSSU Student Gov't) – 1510 Woods Rd – Apt# 115, Winston Salem, NC 27106

Jemma Johnson (WSSU Student) – 4609 Sun Valley, Kernersville, NC 27284

Mona Zahir (WSSU Student) – 601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27110

Melan Brown (WSSU Student) – 601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27110

Linda Garrou – 24 Graylyn Ct., Winston Salem, NC 27106

Chairman Raymond motioned to close public comments; Member El-Amin and Secretary Russell seconded simultaneously; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Raymond addressed Ms. Highsmith's comments regarding videotaping meetings similar to the County Commissioners meetings and deferring to Director Tsujii due to conversation with the county manager regarding the cost and set up.

Secretary Russell called for a point of privilege regarding number of speakers comments on voting sites noting comments be addressed collectively.

Member El-Amin requested a copy of Mr. Jakes letter for the record, provided as requested.

Chairman Raymond addressed Ms. Highsmith's comments regarding time limit for speakers; noting that time is determined by the number of speakers and the length of the agenda.

Director Tsujii noted that concerns about the meeting space will be addressed.

Chairman Raymond stated that remaining comments about site selection will be covered.

Petition Review

Director Tsujii stated that Ms. Allen had expressed concerns regarding the handling of her petition and felt compelled to have the Board review the matter; noting that there had been consultation with the State Board of Elections verifying petition process. Mr. Tsujii requested the Board review the 11 signatures that had been declined as not matching registration signatures to ensure transparency. Director Tsujii advised the Board that in processing Ms. Allen's petition signatures that it required approximately 200 man hours by 10 staff and provided background on petition module noting that Ms. Allen had been provided materials on the module as well. Director Tsujii explained that the staff verified signatures from the petition against the voters' signatures on their voter registration forms. Mr. Tsujii noted that to date that any signer not registered or had provided updated information on the petition had been mailed a letter; 229 had been returned which were comprised of 67 change letters, 158 registration letters, and 4 letters with forwarding information had been resent.

Secretary Russell inquired about the confidentiality of signatures; Mr. Tsujii clarified parameters of confidentiality. Chairman Raymond reviewed various removals and inquired of Ms. Allen if volunteers had been instructed regarding the qualified areas that the voters must live to be eligible to sign the petition.

Ms. Allen stated that she was not provided the information; only that she was informed by Ms. Stuck that they needed to be registered to vote in Winston Salem.

Chairman Raymond stated that he scanned the list and noted one individual lived in Clemmons. Ms. Allen stated that it may have been within the municipality of Winston Salem but with a Clemmons address; noting that she had spoken with Director Tsujii and Allison Blackman at the State Board of Elections regarding addresses.

Director Tsujii reiterated that any signatures presented for reexamination and were found to have valid registrations would be counted. Ms. Allen questioned the signature process, Mr. Tsujii noted that it was a

first glance standard. Secretary Russell asked if letters were sent to those that were not approved; Director Tsujii stated they were not.

Director Tsujii provided the Board with the 11 signatures for review; the Board approved 3 for processing and 8 were to remain disapproved.

Member El-Amin asked for clarification on man-hours used to process the petition signatures; Director Tsujii stated 200.

Early Voting Sites

Chairman Raymond inquired of the findings on South Fork Recreation Center and Industries for the Blind.

Director Tsujii thanked the staff at Industries for the Blind for the opportunity to tour their site. Director Tsujii stated that the room was a good size and would be accessible and voters would be able to exit out the back; however, felt that parking would be an issue. He provided information on the potential of overflow parking in the neighboring preschool parking lot as well as shopping center. He also noted that the facility was located off a major thoroughfare. Staff measured the distance between Industries of the Blind and Brown Douglas finding a minimal separation of distance.

Mr. Tsujii also met with Mr. Grant regarding South Fork Community Center; discussing the scheduling conflict; and the difficulties of sharing location with One-Stop. Director Tsujii addressed Our House stating it was more than adequate; however, parking would be an issue if shared with festivalgoers. He inquired if festival could be moved, Mr. Grant stated that the neighboring school would not be accommodating to the use of their location nor were they supportive of using the parking lot. Additionally, Mr. Tsujii stated that there are support groups that meet at Our House on a weekly basis and shared his concern for the privacy and confidentiality of the member of those groups; as the potential of deterring attendees if asked to meet elsewhere or not at all. Mr. Tsujii stated that there were various constraints in considering South Fork Community Center as a polling location.

The Board offered Calvary Baptist Church and Miller Park Recreation Center in lieu of South Fork Community Center as both sites did look like they would be viable sites for use. Mr. Joyner had contacted Calvary Baptist Church and was waiting for a return call.

Chairman Raymond inquired if the Board would like to hold for further information. Director Tsujii offered that the Gingerbread Festival was previously held at the Armory which was condemned and was held at another location until the location was sold. The Board held on South Fork Community Center until further information could be obtained.

Director Tsujii offered information on Reynolds Park Recreation Center noting the large room was more than acceptable; the site had three parking lots surrounding the recreation center. The Board reviewed the map to see view its proximity. Director Tsujii stated that he also visited Sprague Street Recreation Center noting it had adequate parking with two entrances in the front and back of the facility and offered suitable curbside access.

Chairman Raymond called to table the discussion in anticipation of communication from Calvary Baptist Church.

Chairman Raymond responded to the speakers regarding site locations; noting that the Board tries to make decisions fair by considering locations in the North, South, East and West of Forsyth County. Additionally, he stated that accessibility will be fair, and students would be considered as they try to accommodate needs with everything in mind.

Member El-Amin thanked the students, and let them know their voices had been heard; as well as all those that voiced their concerns. Member El-Amin also addressed the speaker's time limit stating that he would support a 3-minute time limit.

Other Business

Chairman Raymond called for other business. No other business was offered.

Closed Session

Chairman Raymond inquired if there was any business needing to be addressed in closed session. None was offered.

The Board addressed next meeting time to be July 15, 2016 at 4 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Raymond moved to adjourn meeting; Member El-Amin seconded; **Motion carried unanimously**. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Board of Election Meeting Minutes – July 01, 2016

Approved:

Ken Raymond, Chair

Date

Stuart Russell, Secretary

Date

Fleming El-Amin, Member

Date