FAIR BOARD BY-LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE  
July 15, 2019  
Draft Minutes

Members Present: Morgan, Maiville, Naeyaert, and Trubac.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Becky Bennett, Jared Cypher, and Beth Foster.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morgan at 5:32 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Review of Fair Board By-Laws

MOVED BY COMM. TRUBAC, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO ADOPT THE FAIR BOARD BY-LAWS, AS AMENDED.

Commissioner Maiville asked who did the review and made the changes.

Chairperson Morgan stated that he worked with Jared Cypher and Becky Bennett to review and make changes that more accurately reflected the duties of the new Fairground Events Director position and the role of the Fair Board.

Becky Bennett, Board of Commissioners Director, stated that they also consulted the County Attorney.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if the language was strong enough to be clear that the Fairground Events Director did not work for the Fair Board.

Chairperson Morgan stated that they worked to make it as strong as possible. He further stated that the intention was to make sure that the new Fairground Events Director was able to hit the ground running, as smoothly as possible.

Chairperson Morgan stated that it was especially important that the Fair Board understand they were in an advisory role. He further stated an example of a Fair Board member asking an interviewee how they would deal with multiple bosses, which demonstrated a need to clarify the role of the Fair Board as an advisory one and not a supervisory one.
Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she liked the amended Fair Board By-Laws and the clear references to County policy. She asked if Fair Board members could be removed at any time.

Ms. Bennett referred to the new language in Article III, Section IV, of the amended Fair Board By-Laws.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac asked if the removal provision stated in Article III, Section IV, applied to adhering to all of the Fair Board By-Laws and if that section was just being emphasized.

Chairperson Morgan stated that that was the intent.

Ms. Bennett stated that the application signed by Fair Board members also laid out that members served at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners and could be removed without cause unless a particular term was established by Federal or State statute.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked when the next Fair Board meeting was.

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller, stated that they were having a strategic planning meeting in August.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if there were no Fair Board meetings before the Fair.

Mr. Cypher stated that the Fair Board just had a meeting the previous Monday, July 8, 2019. He further stated that there was a strategic planning meeting scheduled for August 12, 2019, and that the next regular meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2019.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if it would be permissible, at the strategic planning meeting, to review the changes to the Fair Board By-Laws and also to review what the members agreed to when they signed their applications.

Chairperson Morgan stated that he thought it was appropriate, once the whole Board of Commissioners approved the Fair Board By-Laws, to plan on presenting a summary at the strategic planning meeting scheduled for August 12, 2019. He further stated that they could figure out who would do that.

Chairperson Morgan stated that he was sure Mr. Cypher would be happy to take that responsibility.

Mr. Cypher stated that he would.
Commissioner Trubac referred to Article I, Section IV, and asked if it would make more sense to say only that the Fair Board was subject to the county policy, in case policy changed in the future.

Discussion.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if the Fair Board should just be involved in the Fair or if they should continue to be involved in faculties and off-season rentals as well. She asked if it might eliminate some of the issues that the Board of Commissioners has been having with Fair Board members overstepping their role, if they were only responsible for the Fair.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the new Fairgrounds Events Director may want help and ideas outside of the Fair. He further stated that if the Fair Board duties are limited to just the Fair, it may be difficult to find people who were engaged and interested between September and May each year.

Mr. Cypher stated that there was a long history behind the Fair Board getting involved in camping and that, in short, it would take some pressure off the Fairgrounds Events Director to continue to have the Fair Board be involved.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac referred to Article I, Section IV, and asked if anyone else thought it was vague.

Ms. Bennett stated that the County policy was going before the Board Rules and Appointments Subcommittee and then the County Services Committee. She further stated that current County policy no longer stated the specifics that were crossed out from Article I, Section IV, and that the new policy will not come before the full Board of Commissioners until August.

Commissioner Trubac asked if the Subcommittee could come up with a better way to say what they meant.

Article I, Section IV was amended as follows:

**Section IV:** Automatic Resignation: Members of the Fair Board, other than those members who are also members of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, will automatically be deemed to have resigned their membership on the Fair Board if they are absent from more than six (6) regular meetings in any twelve (12) month period in accordance with if their absenteeism constitutes a violation of the County policy regarding attendance for advisory boards and commissions.
This was considered a friendly amendment.

Commissioner Naeyaert asked if the Fair Board should be called the Fair and Events Board or something else that more accurately reflected what they did.

Discussion.

MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. TRUBAC, TO CHANGE THE NAME FROM INGHAM COUNTY FAIR BOARD TO INGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS ADVISORY BOARD.

This was considered a friendly amendment.

Ms. Bennett stated that she would run the name change by the County Attorney tomorrow.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that she liked that it was called an advisory board because it also reminded the members that they were an advisory board.

Discussion.

Commissioner Trubac referred to Article III, Section I, B., and asked if there should be more direction as to procedure.

Discussion.

Chairperson Morgan stated that they would follow Mason’s Manual.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FAIR BOARD BY-LAWS, AS AMENDED, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.