

July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Invocation - Member Grimes

The meeting was called to order on July 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections board room by the Chair.

Present: Helen Nelson - Chair
Billy King - Member
James Baker - Member
Irene Grimes - Secretary
Linda Devore - Member

Staff: Vicki Hillburn, Angie Amaro, Mitzie Roberts

Guests: Val Applewhite, Susan Mills, Carrie Jackson, Sharon Johnson, Gerard Falls, Shamika Bethea, Susan Chapman, Valerie Hung, Valencia Handy, Kia Anthony, Sally Shutt

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that the Board approve the agenda.

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Public Comment:

1. Val Applewhite, 5813 Mondavi Place, Fayetteville, NC 28314: Keep Cliffdale Recreation Center as a voting site.
2. Susan Mills, 4158 Bent Grass Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28312: Do not add Spring Lake s a voting site; too expensive.
3. Carrie Jackson, 3813 Softwind Lane, Hope Mills, NC28348. Does not want Spring Lake but maybe Westover.
4. Sharon Johnson, 8436 Umstead Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304: The numbers do not support Spring Lake as an Early Voting Site; if anything West Fayetteville should have an additional site.
5. Gerard Falls, 226 Judd Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305: Massey Hill should not have an additional site; supports Spring Lake.
6. Shamika Bethea, 1919 Wordsworth Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304: Numbers do not support a site in Spring Lake.
7. Susan Chapman, 2710 Creek Meadows Place #188, Fayetteville, NC 28304: Spring Lake should not be a voting site; Massey hill should be a voting site. There should only be one Sunday with voting.
8. Valencia Handy (did not speak; had left the room when called).

Staff member Hilburn reports that 35 absentee ballots have been received (33 civilian, 2 military). She also reports that two of the ballots did not have the State and County noted, and that that does not cause a deficiency.

ACTION: Member King moves to approve the absentee ballot envelopes as recommended by staff.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Interim Director Amaro reports that there is a challenge: a voter returned his absentee ballot and then went to the One Stop area and voted. Staff member Hilburn spoke to the voter and to his wife. The voter said that he had gotten distracted by speaking to electioneers and that it caused him to make that mistake. Interim Director Amaro explains that under Paragraph 7, subsection 3 the Board would have to challenge the Absentee ballot, and have a preliminary hearing the day of canvass.

ACTION: Member Devore moves to find probable cause to proceed with the Absentee challenge.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Previous absentee county: 73

Today: 35

Total to date: 108

Early Voting Plans for the November 2022 midterm election are presented. For clarification, the Chair names two plans proposed by staff "Plan 1" & "Plan 2". Plan proposed by member Devore is named "Plan 3", Plan proposed by member Grimes is named "Plan 4".

Plan 1 includes sites at College Lakes, East Regional, E.E. Miller, Grays Creek, Kiwanis, Smith, Spring Lake, Stoney Point & Westover; the days times proposed are Monday through Friday (October 20-November 4) from 8am to 7:30pm; Saturdays (October 22, 29 and November 5) from 8am to 3pm and Sunday (October 23) from 2pm to 5pm.

Plan 2 includes sites at Cliffdale, College Lakes, East Regional, Grays Creek, Kiwanis, Smith, Spring Lake, and Stoney Point; the days times proposed are Monday through Friday (October 20-November 4) from 8am to 7:30pm; Saturdays (October 22, 29 and November 5) from 8am to 3pm and Sunday (October 23) from 2pm to 5pm.

Plan 3 includes sites at College Lakes, Cliffdale, East Regional, Grays Creek, Kiwanis, Smith, Massey Hill, and Stoney Point; the days times proposed are Monday through Friday (October 20-November 4) from 8am to 7:30pm; Saturdays (October 22, 29 and November 5) from 8am to 3pm and Sunday (October 23) from 2pm to 5pm.

Plan 4 includes sites at Cliffdale, College Lakes, East Regional, Grays Creek, Kiwanis, Smith, Spring Lake, and Stoney Point; the days times proposed are Monday through Friday (October 20-November 4) from 8am to 7:30pm; Saturdays (October 22, 29 and November 5) from 8am to 3pm and both Sundays (October 23 and 30) from 2pm to 5pm.

Interim Director Amaro presented Plan #1 and Plan #2, which differ only in the sites. Recommended days and hours are the same. with all Saturdays and one Sunday.

Secretary Grimes thanked the Interim Director for preparing an alternative plan without Cliffdale, where there have been issues. She also suggested both Sundays be used.

Member King stated that he is very pleased to have members of the community here. He has a kindship with Spring Lake, and would not take this opportunity for an early voting site to be taken away from them. Good to hear costs being discussed.

Member Devore stated that we know from the 2020 data which sites voters found most convenient. At \$30,000 site, we need to select the sites that most voters will use.

Amaro stated that the reason she did not include Cliffdale in her first proposal was because of problems with electioneering out of control, parking, and staff unwilling to work there.

Chair Nelson asked what can be done to address the electioneering behavior, and several suggestions were discussed.

ACTION: Member Devore moves to accept proposal 3.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: ~~Fails~~ (in favor: Devore, Baker; opposed: King, Nelson, Grimes) 3 for 2 against JG

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to accept the locations as proposed in Plan 2 with a change of hours.

Second: Member King

Vote: ~~Fails~~ (in favor: King, Nelson, Grimes; opposed: Devore, Baker) 3 for 2 against JG

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to amend the hours to include both Sundays. (Plan 4)

Second: Member King

Vote: ~~Fails~~ (in favor: King, Nelson, Grimes; opposed: Devore, Baker) 3 for 2 against JG

Chair Nelson explains that since no plan is unanimous (as required by statute) both plans will be presented to the State Board. Hearing date to be determined by the State Board of Elections.

Adjournment

Motion: Member King

Second: Member Grimes

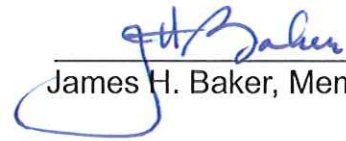
Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 06:03 p.m.

Submitted by,




Irene Grimes, Secretary


Helen Nelson, Chair


James H. Baker, Member


Linda Devore, Member


Billy King, Member