WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 6, 2024

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on November 6, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Comm. LaBarre, Vice Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman (5:36), Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski (5:32), Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott(5:34)
Members Absent:	Comm. Annie Somerville
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk’s Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None.

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

None.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Catherine Jones-Alther, Deputy Finance Officer, presented:

- Follow-up to BOC questions
- All Fund Summary
- Service Area Group Highlights
- Program Review Process

Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director of Washtenaw County Parks spoke about the new Deputy of Operations position Parks is interested in creating.

Comm. Rabhi asked where the position would be in the organizational chart. Director Bonfiglio explained where the position sat in the organizational structure. Comm. Rabhi requested a visual of the chart.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the position had been discussed at Parks Commission meetings.

Bonfiglio clarified that it was not discussed at Parks Commission meetings and explained that position modifications were not typically shared with the committee.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the parks would be looped into the process because it is something that they should know about.
Bonfiglio reiterated that position modifications have never been brought to commission for approval but stated that they would talk a little about the strategic planning vision at the Master Plan meeting in November and then take the plan for review in February.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he wanted to learn more about the position, but also stated that they should invest in more field staff positions instead of administrative staff.

Comm. Sanders asked about position modifications and how the new position was a modification.

Bonfiglio stated that she just referred to the process as position modification when they go through human resources and stated that it had always been referred to as such.

Comm. Sanders stated that the language was misleading. She asked what was not currently being done that the new position would address.

Bonfiglio stated that creation of the new position would allow Parks to better handle and respond to requests from the different facilites. She also stated her belief that with the new position, they could better support their management and seasonal staff.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the new facility that is in the planning stage and stated that she wanted to make sure the Eastside Community Center would be treated equitably.

Bonfiglio explained that the new position would free up some time on the planning side and would allow for better response to the Eastside Recreational Facility.

Comm. Sanders asked about the language regarding professional development in the position description which Bonfiglio explained just referred to internal growth opportunity.

Comm. Sanders spoke about her desire for the Parks Department to promote from the field staff and not just the upper administration. She also expressed her desire for Parks to hire a more diverse workforce.

Comm. Rabhi asked for more information about the organizational chart and received clarification from Bonfiglio.

Comm. Sanders asked about the position and Bonfiglio automatically received the promotion to Chief Deputy without an application process.

Bonfiglio explained that through the promotion internally, others are able to advance in the organization.

Comm. Sanders stated that she would like to see a demographic breakdown of staffing and a plan for a more diverse work demographic at a later date.

Comm. Lyte stated her desire for the position to be posted instead of the position being handed to the Deputy Director. Stated her desire for Parks and Recreation to create a way to make the new position available for external and other internal applicants to apply.

Comm. LaBarre asked if there was anything in terms of the position approval that if not approved, would hinder the process.

Jones -Alther explained the reclass process in past practice. She also explained that the new deputy position was being created at the level that the current deputy position is at and that the vacant position would be posted because there is not an incumbent for the director of operations. She also explained that Meghan's current position would be eliminated and her role would become the chief deputy role.

Comm. Lyte asked if the department would still function if the role was not created.

Bonfiglio stated that she would still function and work hard in her current position if the new role was not created.

Executive Director of Human Resources, Guillermo Hernandez, explained the levels of pay increase that the person who moved into the new position would receive.

Comm. LaBarre thanked Meghan Bonfiglio for answering the board's questions.

All Funds Summary:
Comm. LaBarre asked about HHS expenditures and if it includes Medicaid funding, which Jones-Alther affirmed.

Comm. Scott asked for a breakdown between Federal, State, Local funding and Jones-Alther said that she would provide the information at a later date.

Comm. Sanders asked Jones-Alther to clarify what Land Use & Environment which Jones-Alther provided.

Service Area Groups:

Comm. LaBarre stated his desire to see how much funding is flexible and how much is bonded by state or federal policy.

Comm. Scott asked to see a version of the chart showing only county funds. Jones-Alther stated that the information was provided in the presentation.

Program Review Process:

Comm. LaBarre asked about distinguishing between necessary and unnecessary programs.

Jones-Alther explained the process that they are hoping to utilize.

Comm. Scott asked for standards within and outside the county to be articulated.

Comm. LaBarre asked for language clarification regarding equity which Jones-Alther provided.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the score was calculated. Jones-Alther explained the scoring process.

Comm. Rabhi stated his belief that the scoring was subjective. Jones-Alther agreed and explained that there were specialists from every area on the review board.

Comm. Rabhi provided his opinion that there were experts in groups who could better assess the environmental impacts of the programs in the county.

Comm. Scott asked for the deviations between department scores and review board scores.

Comm. Hodge asked for a more updated program summary and more specifications on what a program is defined as.

Comm. LaBarre provided his thoughts on the presentation and how he interpreted it. Jones-Alther stated that Finance would keep working on the program summary and scoring.
Comm. LaBarre also expressed his worry that the board was not providing enough clarity on what they expected from Finance.

Comm. Maciejewski echoed his fellow commissioner's thoughts and commended Jones-Alther on her presentation. He stated his desire to see a breakdown on services that are not mandated.

Comm. Hodge stated that he wanted to see the scores with only non-mandated services.

Jones-Alther stated that she would get them the information.

Comm. Scott commended Jones-Alther for her presentations and for answering all of the board's questions.

Comm. LaBarre echoed Comm. Scott's sentiments.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION