

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, May 22, 2003
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, VanderMolen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Chair Morren gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Millennium Park Update – Peter Secchia

Ambassador Secchia briefly discussed the history of Millennium Park; it's fund raising status and goals. Updates on Phase II park building progress and plans for amenities to be funded by private donations were given. When the park is completed, it will be one of the largest urban parks in North America.

Grand Rapids Public Schools / Kent Intermediate School District Presentation

Bert Bleke, Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent, commented that 25,000 kids attend Grand Rapids Public Schools (which is 40% of the city's kids). The County needs to help cure some of the problems that effect children such as poverty, racism, etc. Education is paramount. He wants to build bridges with the County and cities to help improve these children's lives.

Mike Weiler, Kent Intermediate School District Superintendent, stated that schools need to change. Working together with Catholic and Christian Schools, they are focusing more on early childhood. We need to collaborate not duplicate.

They are considering a countywide special education millage. At this time, they do not know the exact date or how much money they will be seeking. The last school millage was in 1988. Their message is that they are concerned with the education of all children and that education is paramount to the long-term well being of the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the Minutes of May 8, 2003 Work Session and Meeting

b) May 6, 2003 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner Agee, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

5-22-03-68 – MAC REGION 3 BOARD SEAT – COMMISSIONER MAST / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS Commissioner Harold J. Mast of the Kent County Commission has expressed an interest in running for the Region 3 vacancy on the Michigan Association of Counties Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Harold J. Mast has served as a member of the MAC Human Services Committee for the past 5 years, including one year as Vice-Chair, and one year as Chair; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Harold J. Mast was appointed by former MAC Board President Joe Yekulis to serve as one of two Michigan County Commission members on the MAC Special Task Force on Aging; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Harold J. Mast has experience as an elected City government official having served as a City of Kentwood Commissioner for 14 years before being elected to his current seat as 12th District Kent County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Harold J. Mast has served for the past 6 ½ years as the County Commissioner for portions of the Cities of Kentwood and Wyoming having been re-elected to his 4th term in November 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners endorses the candidacy of Harold J. Mast for the current Region 3 MAC Board seat being vacated by Commissioner Jerry Loudenslager of St. Joseph County, and urges the rest of the County Commissioners in Region 3 to provide a positive vote for his election at the Summer MAC Conference in August 2003.

Motion by Commissioner Kuipers, supported by Commissioner VanderMolen, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:16 a.m., motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner VanderMolen, to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8E of the Open Meetings Act to consult with legal counsel regarding litigation or settlement strategy in connection with the Convergent Group lawsuit. As an open meeting would have detrimental financial effects on the litigation or

settlement position of the County, and pursuant to Section 8H of the Open Meetings Act, the Board desires to go into closed session to consider written communications protected by attorney client privilege and exempt from discussion under Section 13-1H of the Freedom of Information Act.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

At 10:00 a.m., motion by Commission Morgan, supported by Commissioner Postmus, to go back into open session.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

S.M.A.R.T. Counties

Commissioner Voorhees reported that the Key Person - Region 3 Committee (representing the 14 counties in southwest Michigan) has been renamed S.M.A.R.T. (Southwest Michigan Alliance Region Three) Counties.

Senior Meal Fundraiser and Voter Registration Drive

Commissioner Vaughn announced that the Senior Meal fundraiser with the churches will be held again this year through the month of June. Also, a non-partisan voter registration drive will take place this Saturday, May 24, 2003, at King and Garfield Parks from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Service Awards

Chair Morren gave service awards to Commissioner Hiddema (15 years) and Commissioner Mast (5 years).

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05 a.m., Commissioner Morgan moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 12, 2003, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner VanderMolen. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk