

22. **Acceptance of the Nominating Committee for the Leon County Research Development Authority Nominees for Appointments to the Leon County Research Development Authority Board of Governors**

County Administrator Alam remarked that the Nominating Committee had received 10 requests for appointment to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors (Authority) and four names have been recommended for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Sauls inquired the process to be used to make the nominations. She suggested that the Board utilize a "written ballot" whereby Commissioners can submit names for consideration. This suggestion was supported by Commissioner Desloge.

Chairman Rackleff expressed concern that the Nominating Committee did not recommend Mr. Bill Hebrock for reappointment to the Board. He indicated that he would not limit his considerations to those names presented by the Committee.

Chairman Rackleff opened the floor for nominations for the first of two appointments.

- Commissioner Desloge nominated Eric Miller.
- Commissioner Thael nominated Bill Hebrock.
- Commissioner Dailey nominated Dave Ramsay.
- Commissioner Sauls nominated John Bell.

In response to comments expressed by Commissioner Desloge regarding the Ordinance which establishes the Nominating Committee and the Board's duty to accept the recommendations, Commissioner Thael requested a legal opinion from the County Attorney. *It was the opinion of Mr. Thiele that the Board was not bound only by the names recommended by the Nominating Committee and could consider all applications submitted for appointment.*

Commissioners' Sauls, Desloge and Akinyemi conveyed concerns about the process whereby nominations are made. It was remarked that the process was unfair and did not allow all Commissioners an opportunity to submit individuals they supported for appointment.

Commissioner Dailey stated that although appreciative of the recommendations from the Nominating Committee he interpreted them only as recommendations. He submitted that, with the formation of the new Innovation Board, further discussion of Innovation Park was warranted, in particular a review of the Initial Park Charter.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi, to appoint Bill Hebrock and Dave Ramsay to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors.

Chairman Rackleff appreciated the recognition of Mr. Hebrock's service and acknowledged the application of Barney Bishop, who he deemed would bring to the Board contacts and opportunities that currently do not exist on the BOG. Chairman Rackleff recommended that appointments be made separately.

After some discussion regarding the need to have separate appointments offered, Commissioner Dailey withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinyemi, to appoint Bill Hebrock to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors. The motion carried 7-0.

Speaker:

- Curtis Baynes, 1323 E. Tennessee St., suggested that any individual to be considered for appointment should address the Board and provide explanation on what they would bring to the BOG and what they would do to be part of the solution.

Commissioners Proctor and Thael responded to Mr. Baynes comments, with Commissioner Thael pointing out that he had spoken to three of the applicants who in fact did provide their vision and goals for the BOG.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to appoint Barney Bishop to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors.

Commissioner Akinyemi and Sauls reiterated their concerns about the nominating process. Commissioner Sauls moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to redo the vote. The motion was not recognized by Chairman Rackleff.

The Board acknowledged the number of high quality applicants and in particular Mr. Bishop and Ramsay's interest in membership to the Innovation Board. Commissioner Dailey recommended that the Board appoint one of those two individuals tonight and the other be designated as an "ex-officio" member, who would attend meetings immediately in a non-voting capacity and would be appointed by the incoming Chairman as their official designee in November.

Commissioner Thael accepted the friendly amendment and the action was deemed in order by Chairman Rackleff.

Commissioner Thael's amended motion: Appoint Barney Bishop to the Leon County Research and Development Authority Board of Governors, effective October 1, 2010; and appoint Dave Ramsay as an ex-officio member (non-voting) to be formally appointed to the Board of Governors as the Chairman's designee at the November Commission meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

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