

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2022
*via zoom platform
Start Time: 4:30 p.m.
End Time: 5:14 p.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Dele Lowman Smith
Vice-Chair Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter

Other Attendees: Twyla Hart, Interim Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tristen Waite, Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Ms. Jester to approve the agenda. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) January 13, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A staff member read the rules for public comment.

Public comments of two minutes or less may be made live via the teleconference. For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Lori Edwards
- Elizabeth Davis
- Marci McCarthy

Click here to view BRE meetings: [Video On Demand | DeKalb County, GA \(dekalbcountyga.gov\)](https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov)

- Collette Frix
- Haqiqa Bolling
- Jane Mezoff
- Steven Binney
- Victoria Webb
- Sheryl Sterling

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Burton discussed options for virtual and in-person listening sessions to meet the new executive director, upcoming social media communications, requests for absentee ballots and a refined strategy for redistricting to include an integrated marketing approach based on impact.

Mr. Burton followed-up on Ms. Smith's request for a link at the top of the website allowing users to opt-in to the mailing list.

Ms. Jester commented on the potential movement of the primary date due to a federal case and will follow-up with Mr. Burton for action if needed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hart briefly discussed redistricting and announced the due date to complete redistricting is February 18. DeKalb County maps have not been approved but if the proposed maps are approved with no changes staff is prepared for the next step in the process, which is data entry.

Ms. Hart announced that the number of precincts and proposed locations for early voting are being finalized for Board approval. Also, the State is implementing a new registration system and staff will complete training on the new system in the weeks to follow.

Ms. Motter asked about the amount of time needed to complete the data entry portion of the redistricting process. Ms. Hart explained that the timeline from now until the deadline will depend on when the maps are approved. Four additional temporary employees will come in to assist with this task and staff is prepared to work expeditiously to meet the deadline.

Ms. Smith asked if there has been any discussion about extending the deadline. Ms. Hart reported there has not been any communication with the counties about extending the deadline.

Ms. Smith acknowledged Ms. Hart as this is her last meeting as Interim Director and opened the floor for recognition of Ms. Hart's commitment and support of the Board during this time period. Each board member thanked Ms. Hart for her dedication and her willingness to step up and help during a difficult time. Ms. Hart handled many challenges during her time as Interim Director and the Board appreciates all the work she has done.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Motter responded to a public comment about poll worker training and has ideas on how to improve and update training.

Mr. Lewis thanked and acknowledged senior staff member, LaTasha Howard, who will be leaving the department. Mr. Lewis wishes her the best moving forward.

Ms. Jester responded to a public comment about advocating for a budget increase on the Board's behalf and suggested how residents can support efforts to right-size the budget.

Ms. Smith discussed conversations with staff as the department welcomes a new director and what's to come for this year's election cycle.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.