

## **HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MAY 21, 2009**

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Session on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President David Trine, Vice President William Thompson and Member Tyler Moore. Attorney Larry Murrell was also in attendance.

This Special Meeting was called to consider Courthouse lawn issues and any other matters of county business requiring special attention.

The meeting was conducted by President Trine.

### **IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE LAWN ISSUES:**

Commissioner Moore began discussion by announcing the Courthouse Beautification Meeting, Friday morning and the following subjects on their agenda:

- 1) Update on the Native American Statue relocation project
- 2) Funding
- 3) Design updates

The Community Foundation, Urban Enterprise Association, and the Kokomo Downtown Association have their own ideas of what the Beautification activity should be. The Board of Commissioners will decide what the project should consist of and let the organizations decide their portion of the project.

Discussion ensued concerning future maintenance of any landscaping improvements, maintenance of vendor boxes at the Courthouse, current zoning ordinance, use of Inmate Work Crew, Security of Courthouse activities, parking around the Courthouse and an additional cement pad on the northwest side of the Courthouse, past beautification designs, and adequacy of current utilities.

The Board members had the following concerns:

Commissioner Thompson: Concerned about security and future maintenance.  
Feels that priority should be on not using County funds.

Commissioner Moore: Concerned about the cost of the project / should the County have some kind of investment.  
How does beautification bring more business to downtown Kokomo?

Commissioner Trine: Do not spend tax payer money for this beautification project.  
Have the organizations choose which part of the project they will underwrite.

Mr. Murrell reminded the Board that according to statute, the lawn is a non-public forum, but doesn't feel that a gazebo, monuments or statues would be a problem because they could be considered for government use.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed to consider the addition of a gazebo, benches, fountain, and the possible relocation of the Kokomo Native American monument as beautification options. The Commissioners would also suggest the use of a coordinator to oversee the projects.

### **IN THE MATTER OF MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:**

The Board of Commissioners discussed issues pertaining to the corroded pipe in the basement of the Courthouse that needs replacement, and the fire alarm inspection service for monitoring the systems that are already alarmed at the Government Center and Howard Haven.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSENT TO MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIONS:**

Attorney Murrell submitted an agreement from Barnes & Thornburg for a Consent for Multiple Representation for services in connection with Chrysler Bankruptcy issues, because Barnes & Thornburg will be representing other entities besides Howard County, in this issue. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried to approve the Consent for Multiple Representation for Barnes & Thornburg for services in connection with the Chrysler Bankruptcy.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

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DAVID A. TRINE, PRESIDENT

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WILLIAM THOMPSON, VICE PRESIDENT

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TYLER O. MOORE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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ANN WELLS, AUDITOR

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