

Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2019  
(UNAPPROVED)

Meeting called to order by Chair Fisher at 5:30 PM, Commissioner Chambers, Administration Building, 605 N Birch Street, Kalkaska, MI. Present Commissioners David Comai, Patty Cox, Craig Crambell, Kohn Fisher, Leigh Ngirarsaol, James Sweet, John West and County Clerk Deborah Hill.

Chair Fisher called for consideration to relocate the meeting to the Kaliseum due to number of public in attendance. **Motion** by Crambell to recess at 5:31 PM and reconvene at the Conference Room at the Kaliseum. Supported by Cox. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Meeting recessed at 5:31 PM. Meeting reconvened at the Kaliseum at 5:47 PM.

Chair Fisher reconvened meeting at 5:47 PM, Kaliseum Conference Room; all Commissioners and Clerk in attendance.

**Public Input:**

Jack Tanner: Tanner addressed Board noting the need to evaluate the future use of the Kaliseum, consider a Community Center; noted potential for grants and need for an Executive Director rather than Board oversight. (Report filed with Clerk)

Marsha Hanna: Reserved time.

Paul Birgy: Birgy addressed Board noting his involvement when the Kaliseum was started and knowledge of the past 20 years; concern with inconsistent oversight; concern with survey participation.

Randy Tester: Reserved time.

Chuck Garrison: Garrison addressed Board noting need for ice programs, physical therapy needs of the pool and use of office spaces for local businesses.

Lynn Herbers: Herbers addressed Board noting need to move forward, appreciation of the survey and need to plan for the future of the Kaliseum.

Arthur Caden: Reserved time.

Chair Fisher noted appreciation for public input and called for purpose of meeting, requesting John Cavanaugh to present the survey results to review/accept by the Board.

John Cavanaugh: Cavanaugh, EPIC, addressed Board regarding survey, noted postcards were sent to all voting households based on Bureau of Elections voting information; purpose to obtain sampling of public opinion; noted telephone interviews conducted first, followed by postcards for online participation. Cavanaugh noted telephone and online results were similar with three optional results of: least favorable for partial repair, 2<sup>nd</sup> least favorable was removal of the Kaliseum and most favorable was complete restoration; overall results of surveys was not favorable support of the Kaliseum based on the survey sample.

Chair Fisher called for Board review of Kaliseum repair options. Discussion, Board noted concerns and review of structure needs, issues if repairs are tabled, minimum and maximum

options/costs; noted millages will not overlap; review of proposed 1.86 mill, to continue to review options to reduce the millage and yet meet the needs of the structure and maintenance. Discussion regarding the deadline of 2-12-2019 for the May election filing; concern of future of Kaliseum if millage fails; noted failure to pass operational millage in 1996 with the project brought forward by the public, caused the general fund to pay the operation expenses.

**Public Input:**

Seth Phillips: Phillips addressed Board requesting clarification of survey with least rejected option; noted concern every voting household did not receive one.

Charles Garrison: Garrison addressed Board noting favorable resources offered by the Kaliseum and recommendation to move forward.

Marsha Hanna: Hanna inquired of survey process.

Lynn Herbers: Herbers addressed Board regarding survey and data.

Jack Tanner: Tanner addressed Board regarding the survey results and comments.

Fisher noted necessity for mutual support for all, functions and users of the Kaliseum and county grounds; noted functions and resources are for now and the future generations; noted without millage for project repairs the pool remains closed and the future of the structure is subject to further mechanical failure. Consensus to set an additional meeting 2-4-19.

**Public Input:**

Paul Birgy: reserved time.

Arthur Caden: Caden addressed Board noting his concern that the survey was not the best representation. (Cavanaugh explained survey was a sampling only)

Randy Tester: Tester addressed Board requesting the plan, noting the past mismanagement, revenue concerns and his current indecision.

Paul Birgy: Birgy addressed Board noting his lengthy relationship with the Kaliseum need to run the Kaliseum as a business, need for marketing the project

Teresa Smith: Smith addressed Board noting concern with the lack of plan of the initial project and concern if this goes forward without business plan.

Mike Winter: Winter addressed Board noting concern the facility has not been successful for 20 years and Board should repurpose the facility.

Brian Birgy: Birgy addressed Board requesting clarification of the 3 project options and the current operational millage.

Paul Birgy: Birgy addressed Board noting the need to bring people out of the area as well as in the area for the use of the facility and the grounds.

Teresa Smith: Smith addressed Board noting the need for all potential resources to be considered.

Marsha Hanna: Hanna addressed Board noting appreciation of the Boards work on the project; agrees with the improvements; requested to see the business plan; need for proper management and marketing; need for a vision and educating the public; appreciation for survey.

Charles Garrison: Garrison noted the need for a committee and/or administrator to include townships for planning; request review comparison of past millage with current request with explanation to the public of the expense needs.

Regan Forester: Forester addressed Board noting his support of the Kaliseum; request for the plan going forward; noted the asset and resources provided by the Kaliseum for the future; noted need to educate the public.

**Motion** by Comai to accept the Kaliseum Survey Results as presented by EPIC. Supported by Cox. Roll call vote: Comai, yes; Cox, yes; Crambell, yes; Ngirarsaol, yes; Sweet, yes; West, yes; Fisher, yes. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Board discussion regarding services, expenses, continued review with the Bond Attorney and Financial Advisor; noted request to the public for their input and continued involvement with the project. Consensus to schedule a Special meeting 2-4-2019 for review, discuss and/or approval of Kaliseum Millage language.

**Motion** by Crambell to adjourn at 7:27 PM. Supported by Ngirarsaol. 7 yeas. 0 nays. **Carried.**

Respectfully submitted:

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Deborah Hill, Kalkaska County Clerk and  
Clerk of Board of Commissioners

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Kohn Fisher, Chair of  
Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

These minutes are not official until they are approved at the next Regular Board of Commissioners meeting.