

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD SESSION – To Fill the Vacancy for House District 19

Tuesday, July 23, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room
555 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Sam Brentano, and Commissioner Colm Willis.

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Video Time (00:01:45)

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF PROCESS – Commissioner Kevin Cameron

Summary:

- The commissioners are operating under the auspices of the Secretary of State;
- There are very specific requirements for filling a legislative vacancy, which the commissioners have done several time over the years;
- Process:
 - The commissioners will be taking opening statements from each nominee:
 - Each nominee has three minutes.
 - The commissioners will be asking each nominee questions:
 - Each nominee will have two minutes to answer; and
 - The commissioners will rotate the order of the nominees.
 - The commissioners will allow three minutes for closing statements;
 - Will take a break after closing statements; and
 - Will come back and deliberate.

Video Time (00:03:05)

NOMINEE'S OPENING STATEMENTS

Becky Mitts:

- Ms. Mitts chose to put her name out there as candidate for House District 19 to give the commissioners three conservative, pro-life candidates to choose from;
- Ms. Mitts is overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm from the constituents;
- She believes she can make a difference serving as representative for House District 19;
- Some of the constituents voiced their concerns with Ms. Mitts and they are as follows:
 - The foster youth of Oregon;
 - The struggle of small businesses:
 - Farming; and
 - Logging.
 - Freedom for parents:

- Educational; and
 - Medical.
- Ms. Mitts makes a difference in her position currently, but having the title of state representative would open more doors and start more conversations;
- Ms. Mitts wants to work on issues plaguing the residents of House District 19, and work side-by-side with Senator Boles to resolve them;
- Ms. Mitts believes she has a servant's heart and wants to help House District 19, Marion County, and Oregon;
- From her past experience, she knows the dreams and fears of farming:
 - How small changes to laws and regulations sometimes have large effects on small businesses.
- Wants to be a voice for the foster youth and working Oregonians trying to live the American dream; and
- Ms. Mitts is asking for the commissioner's vote.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- Ms. Moore-Green and her husband have resided in Marion County, specifically House District 19 for more than 24 years;
- Has raised two of her three children in the area:
 - Two of her 10 grandchildren reside in Marion County.
- Ms. Moore-Green is a lifelong registered conservative Republican;
- Loves the City of Salem, its people, the surrounding communities, and the opportunities that are afforded to every Oregonian;
- Ms. Moore-Green's second career has afforded her a unique opportunity to see the many facets of the area that span the rural divide;
- While Salem is not Multnomah County, there are many city dwellers who continue to put forth an agenda that is oppressive to the rural communities;
- During her many years as a Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and SEDCOR member, she has witnessed how everyone who works together can arrive at outcomes that satisfies everyone's desire for honest work and safe communities;
- Ms. Moore-Green completed six years as the Ward 3 representative on the City of Salem's Budget Committee:
 - Served as committee chair in 2018;
 - Appointed to the Sustainable Revenue Taskforce, which helped to produce the recommendations to the city council on how best to approach the imbalance of the city's budget; and
 - Through this service, Ms. Moore-Green developed a perspective on budgetary challenges facing local communities and the direct impact the state's budget, positive or negative, has on all local municipalities.
- Over the last nine years, Ms. Moore-Green has professionally managed political campaigns for state and county level positions, as well as local city ballot measures:
 - The most recent was the re-election of the late Senator Jackie Winters.
- Ms. Moore-Green has had the honor and privilege to serve on the legislative staff of then Republican House Leader Kevin Cameron:
 - This last legislative session, she served as staff for the late Senator Winters.

- She is familiar with, and has a sense of the local political landscape across all segments of government, inside and outside of the capitol;
- The combination of several clients and projects intersecting has deepened her knowledge and has given her a richer understanding for some of the issues facing correctional institutions, their associated policies, and the absolute need to work together;
- Ms. Moore-Green's work with the Union Gospel Mission has shed a brighter light on homelessness and how partnering of non-profits, the faith community, municipalities, and community members do make a difference;
- Ms. Moore-Green hopes to bring these types of issues to the state level as the next representative of House District 19; and
- Ms. Moore-Green is asking for the commissioner's vote.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- The decision for Councilor Nanke to come before the commissioners was not made lightly;
- Has served as a City of Salem Councilor for the last 19 years;
- Has been involved in the appointment process several times;
- The decisions Councilor Nanke makes on a regular basis is a responsibility he does not take lightly;
- The City of Salem has gone through changes throughout the time he has spent on the council;
- The oath he swore five times to defend the constitution and laws of the United States of America, and the constitution and laws of the State of Oregon are decisions that weigh heavily on him;
- Councilor Nanke has to defend his decisions on a daily basis;
- Councilor Nanke comes prepared to every meeting, is deliberative, and makes his decisions based on the law;
- Councilor Nanke is a constitutional conservative;
- Comes before the commissioners knowing he can take the knowledge and skills he's learned serving on the city council; and
- Asking for the commissioner's vote.

COMMISSIONERS' QUESTIONS

Video Time (00:13:30)

Commissioner Cameron:

1. What are your specific and concrete plans to keep yourself grounded and in touch with your constituents as a legislator?

Becky Mitts:

- Her family keeps her grounded; and
- Ms. Mitts stated that she will check in with her constituents on a regular basis so she is aware of issues needing to be resolved in her district.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- Will listen to her constituent's concerns, hopes, and dreams;
- Would implement town hall meetings:
 - Regular breakfast meetings; and
 - Legislative newsletters.
- Desires to keep the constituents engaged and to let them know that they are welcome at the capitol; and
- Desires a stronger community for everyone.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Has experience as a city councilor in this area;
- Has a servant's heart;
- Does not take his position that he's been elected to for granted;
- Desires to represent those who put him in the elected position;
- Will knock on thousands of doors;
- Will attend local events;
- Will make himself available to his constituents;
- Will host open houses;
- Will defend his positions; and
- Voice his goals as a state representative.

Video Time (00:17:36)

Commissioner Brentano:

2. Marion County is overburdened with prisons and mental health institutions. Our resources are strained by the families that follow the incarcerated. How do you plan on holding the line on additional facilities in our community or finding ways to compensate Marion County for the impacts these institutions cause?

Raquel Moore-Green:

- Having the various municipalities and non-profits come together to help address the issues;
- There has been tremendous work done with the Marion County Reentry Program; and
- There are many programs that are looking to help within this arena.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Marion County has a burden that exceeds the state;
- Municipalities are short on funds to address the issues;
- Will work with programs that are already in place to deal with these issues;
- Councilor Nanke worked with Homeless Connect;
- Participated in homeless counts;
- Families tend to move closer to the prison, and when their family members are released, they remain in the area;
- There are programs that have been put in place for mental health and reentry services; and

- These programs are important for the newly released prisoner, so they can lead productive lives.

Becky Mitts:

- Mental health needs have increased over the last several years;
- The amount of homeless people and people with mental health issues walking the streets in Salem has increased significantly;
- Needs to work hand-in-hand with private and non-profits to help fix the issues;
- The legislature needs to be more balanced and change budgetary items in order to fund mental health programs; and
- Believes this is one of the most important issues plaguing the community.

Video Time (00:22:44)

Commissioner Willis:

3. What about your experience or background makes you the most prepared candidate for service in the legislature?

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- His service to the City of Salem for 19 years as city councilor;
- His service to the League of Oregon Cities for nine years, and serving as president in 2016;
- This has put him in positions of great learning;
- Had to serve in a super minority;
- Maintained a strong opposition to issues that he views are harmful to his constituents; and
- Brings a lot of tools and base knowledge that he has acquired through his private and public career.

Becky Mitts:

- Was not involved politically while raising her children;
- Has worked as a farmer and small business owner;
- Recently worked in a political environment;
- Knows the people in the capitol:
 - Knows the issues;
 - Knows the processes; and
 - Can hit the ground running.
- Has great people skills, which will help her in the position.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- Raising children has prepared her for this role:
 - Keeping kids on schedule;
 - Keeping them moving forward; and
 - Addressing various needs under pressure.
- The skill set of raising children is highly transferable;
- Helps formulate solutions to problems;
- Mentoring;
- Had the opportunity to work in the legislature;

- Worked with local non-profits;
- Self-employed for the last six years; and
- Connected with the business community in Salem.

Video Time (00:27:24)

Commissioner Cameron:

4. If selected, what process will you follow to solicit input and find answers on legislative issues? What are the actions you will take to be effective in the minority?

Becky Mitts:

- Will rely on her people skills;
- Will rely on a lot of people who work in the community to relay those issues back to her;
- The minority was heard loud and clear this last legislative session; and
- Continue to work side-by-side with like-minded people.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- The process to solicit input would be wide and varied depending on the issues;
- Would go to the people who are specialists on the issues, but would also reach out to the communities who are affected by the issue;
- Always soliciting input from constituents is important, because ultimately it affects everyone when decisions are made;
- There are a number of retired legislators in town that are more than willing to sit down and provide guidance, which is something Ms. Moore-Green would rely upon;
- Surrounding herself with good staff that are knowledgeable of the issues and the building; and
- Would hold fast to her beliefs and values to be effective in the minority.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Has built a fairly large group of regulators, mostly at the city level;
- Built relationships with current and past legislators;
- Would contact those who had knowledge of the issue that was put before him;
- Would have a deep social media connection;
- Reaching out to those who have a vested interest on the issue; and
- Has earned the respect of those he has served with, regardless of political affiliation.

Video Time (00:33:40)

Commissioner Brentano:

5. What is your position on gun rights?

Raquel Moore-Green:

- Would view all potential legislation under the lens of the Second Amendment;
- Believes the government has been overreaching in views on gun control; and
- Is not interested in taking people's rights away when it comes to gun rights.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- The Second Amendment is clear;
- It is meant to protect the citizen's First Amendment rights as well;
- Will fight gun control bills at every step; and
- The Second Amendment is one of the most valuable freedoms that have been given to the people.

Becky Mitts:

- There is no reason to limit gun rights;
- Needs to look at more personal responsibility;
- Mental health issues need to be addressed; and
- Need to hold people accountable who commit crimes.

Video Time (00:36:27)

Commissioner Willis:

6. Each of you come with preexisting relationships; employers, supporters, friends, family, and colleagues. What will you do to ensure that you represent all of Marion County House District 19 impartially and independently?

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Has contacts throughout the state;
- Being a constitutional conservative, Councilor Nanke views that government and the rights of individuals are paramount;
- The state tends to overreach and regulate to the lowest common denominator, which removes freedoms; and
- Every decision Councilor Nanke makes will be based on maintaining the maximum degree of freedom.

Becky Mitts:

- Ms. Mitts is currently the chief of staff for Rep. Nearman, and she runs her office like she runs her life, regardless of people's beliefs:
 - Can be very polite; and
 - Is a great listener.
- She is willing to hear the other person's point of view, state her point of view politely, and agree to disagree; and
- This is how she will run her office.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- It is a challenge to hold onto values and beliefs while representing the diversity of the constituents, even in House District 19;
- Would listen to what the constituents concerns and desires are, as well as anticipated outcomes;
- Will treat everyone with respect;
- Will provide positive feedback; and
- Will have an office with a welcoming environment.

Video Time (00:41:05)

Commissioner Brentano:

7. Describe your electability to the position if you're appointed today. What is your knowledge of the legislative process?

Becky Mitts:

- This is her first campaign and she has learned a lot from it:
 - Campaigned by herself, which if she did again, she would have had a team helping her.
- Will make being reelected a full time job;
- Will have a good team behind her;
- Has worked at the capitol for the last five sessions;
- Has learned a lot from Rep. Nearman; and
- Very confident in her ability to work as a state representative.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- During the course of this process, she has reached out to many community leaders;
- Received overwhelming support from people who have long-term commitment and time in the community;
- Ms. Moore-Green will be dedicated to the position and work hard for her constituents:
 - Will knock on doors and make phone calls.
- Believes she has the ability to raise money;
- Believes House District 19 will be a contested seat;
- Has reached out to the caucus leadership to introduce herself and share her background; and
- Reached out to the Latino Business Alliance and was warmly received by them.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- He has a knowledge of the legislative process;
- Has served on the Salem City Council Legislative Committee reviewing bills that impact city government;
- Councilor Nanke has campaigned for many years:
 - Only unsuccessful once.
- He will treat the position as a full time campaign.

Video Time 00:48:19)

Commissioner Cameron:

8. If appointed today, how much money could you raise in the next 60 days for your campaign?

Raquel Moore-Green:

- The goal will be \$100,000; and
- The reality will be \$50,000.

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Knowing that the costs continue to escalate, \$50,000 would be a number to strive for; and
- His goal is to raise \$1,000 a day, which calculates to \$60,000.

Becky Mitts:

- Hasn't been involved in a campaign;
- Would immediately contact someone to help with donors to raise as much as she possibly can;
- If Ms. Moore-Green states that \$100,000 is needed, then that is her goal as well;
- Will do whatever it takes to raise as much money as possible; and
- Does not want to lose this seat.

Video Time (00:50:49)

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Councilor Brad Nanke:

- Appreciates the opportunity to be one of the candidates for the position of House District 19 Representative;
- To be asked to be appointed to be a part of a super minority, which will be a less than desirable workplace, may sound less than rational;
- Councilor Nanke has served in a super minority twice;
- Is well prepared to take the seat;
- Ready to fight for his constituents;
- Will start campaigning on day one;
- Able to work across the aisle;
- Will bring skills and knowledge with him to the legislature:
 - Emergency planning and response;
 - Environmental; and
 - Finance and taxation.
- Believes he will be able to alter the course of legislation based on the knowledge he has and the ability to solve complex problems;
- Councilor Nanke will be involved and dedicated to his position; and
- Asking for the commissioner's vote for appointment.

Becky Mitts:

- Oregon is her home and her family's home;
- Regardless of being appointed to the position, she will be working and volunteering for Oregon;
- She has a couple of incredible opportunities to participate in for high school students;
- Being an advocate for Oregon's most vulnerable people;
- Will walk side-by-side with the Anti-Mandatory Vaccination Parents;
- Will work with the Timber Unity Group to keep jobs in Oregon;
- Will continue to keep her neighbors informed with what is happening at the capitol and how they can get involved;

- Will continue her role with the Oregon Republican Party by getting conservative Republicans elected in Oregon;
- If the commissioners honor Ms. Mitts with this appointment, it will be her full time job;
- She will build relationships with her constituents and community leaders;
- This is an extremely exciting time to be involved with politics in Oregon:
 - People are energized and paying attention; and
 - Getting more involved.
- If the legislature can work in a bipartisan way to solve problems, it would be wonderful again to use Oregon's natural resources to create well-paying jobs;
- She wants to be the common sense conservative voice for House District 19; and
- Asking for the commissioner's vote for appointment.

Raquel Moore-Green:

- The time is right for Ms. Moore-Green to step up and lead;
- Has established relationships throughout business, faith based, municipal, non-profit, and political communities;
- She has demonstrated many times her ability to listen, participate in strategy and solutions, and to persevere when the going gets tough;
- Her collective work in the community proves her willingness to work across a various setting of people and issues, culminating in stronger and safer communities for everyone;
- The 80th Oregon Legislative Assembly ended not a moment too soon:
 - It brought new taxes;
 - Reversed the 2014 decision on undocumented drivers; and
 - It handicapped voter's use of downloadable petitions.
- These are only a few of the final bills that passed;
- It brought moms and kids to the capitol in record numbers to fight for their right to make medical decisions about their children;
- Loggers and farmers showed up on the streets of the capitol more than once to say enough is enough, and Ms. Moore-Green agrees with them;
- Protecting the rights of the citizens has been the legacy of House District 19:
 - Representatives Cameron, Hack, and Boles never put the banner down.
- Ms. Moore-Green will hold the banner high:
 - Listen;
 - Remain relevant to the issues; and
 - Effective to the constituents of House District 19.
- Will provide support and encouragement to constituents facing adversity in their dealings with state government;
- Will remain steadfast to her beliefs and will persevere;
- Leadership takes dedication, integrity, and honesty:
 - If appointed, Ms. Moore-Green will bring these traits and her skills as the newly appointed representative of House District 19.
- Asking for the commissioner's vote for appointment.

The commissioners convened at 9:59 a.m.

The commissioners reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

ACTION

Video Time (01:09:43)

DELIBERATION AND VOTE

Board Discussion:

- The commissioners received 328 letters of support from constituents; and
- There are three excellent candidates for the commissioners to choose from.

Commissioner Brentano:

- All of the candidates scored very close;
- All of the candidates are conservative Republicans;
- Looking for a candidate that has common sense:
 - Pro-life views;
 - Pro Second Amendment;
 - Electability; and
 - A great representative for House District 19.
- Commissioner Brentano's vote is for Raquel Moore-Green.

Commissioner Willis:

- This is a very difficult vote;
- Each of the candidates will do a great job;
- Appreciates Ms. Mitts heart for service;
- Ms. Moore-Green is very competent and organized;
- Appreciates Councilor Nanke's long service to the constituents of Salem;
- Commissioner Willis' vote is for Raquel Moore-Green:
 - Believes that Ms. Moore-Green ran the best campaign.
- Some of the letters the commissioners received from the Precinct Committee Persons were confusing due to them asking to choose one of two candidates they prefer, but do not choose the other candidate:
 - It was not helpful for the process.


Commissioner Cameron:

- Echoes the thoughts of the other two commissioners;
- Family is extremely important to all of the candidates;
- The Second Amendment is important to all of the candidates;
- People really need to be listened to, which all three candidates have that quality;
- Commissioner Cameron appreciates Councilor Nanke's dedication to serve his constituents;
- Appreciates Ms. Mitts statement that she will continue to serve her community no matter the outcome;
- Ms. Moore-Green has a broad community support;
- Each of the candidates would do a great job representing House District 19;
- Appreciates each candidate putting their name forward for consideration;
- Commissioner Cameron's vote is for Raquel Moore-Green:

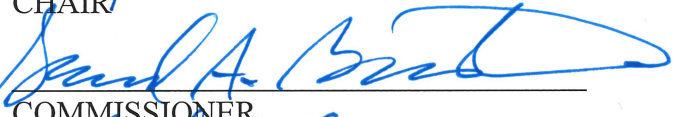
- Ms. Moore-Green has worked with Commissioner Cameron for many years; and
- She has professional experience, which will help her in this position.

MOTION: Commissioner Brentano moved to appoint Raquel Moore-Green as state representative for House District 19. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. Motion carried; a voice vote was unanimous.


Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.



CHAIR



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYF8Y6U7178>.