



# Muskegon Community College

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 1, 2020 – 12:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Chair Osborn, Vice Chair Mullally, Trustee Frye, Trustee Moore, Trustee Crandall, Trustee Oakes and Trustee Portenga

Chair Osborn called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

- I. Chair Osborn welcomed participants to the Special Board meeting. She stated we have one topic and action item today, for Muskegon Community College to permanently close the Lakeshore Fitness Center.

Public Comments were heard from members and Friends of The Lakeshore Fitness Center Nancy Steir, Anna Mausolf, Ellen Beal, Chris Poniatowski, Roger Rapoport, Paul Ladas, Sheila Molenkamp, Sandy Stone and Pete Bosheff.

Chair Osborn thanked everyone for their comments, as well as those who sent emails. She read a [statement](#) outlining how and why MCC arrived at the decision to move forward with a permanent closure of the Lakeshore Fitness Center.

Trustee Crandall made a motion to move forward with an operational closure of the Lakeshore Fitness Center at this time; second. Discussion ensued.

After hearing comments today and reading suggestions submitted by Roger Rapoport, Trustee Crandall identified two actions before the Board today. First, what is the immediate action we need to take of keeping the fitness center open at this time under the circumstances that exist for us, namely COVID-19 and the stress on membership and finances going forward? The other issue is what is the long-term position of the facility and is there a way for the College to work with the community to preserve and look at enhancing and possibly replacing that facility over time, noting these are both issues that need to be addressed. The motion made addresses part one, which is to close the operation component, indicating he would later make a motion to look at alternatives moving forward with what to do with the facility for the future. We are closing the operational component of the facility and our relationship with Power Wellness, while maintaining the LFC until we decide what to do with the facility. Ken Long will confirm the monthly cost with closing operations, but maintaining the facility in the short-term as we decide what to do with the facility.

Trustee Portenga emphasized that the LFC has been a fabulous facility and acknowledged it gives a great service to the community. He has read all of the emails and responded to most and appreciates them. He gave special thanks to The Friends of the Lakeshore Fitness Center for their efforts. He stated while the LFC has succeeded in so many of its goals, it has not succeeded financially, averaging \$500,000 losses annually over 5-years. Besides the operational losses, we have capital losses and we cannot predict or budget for every capital need related to

continual repairs. There are a number of items that need to be done to keep the facility in good shape. He wrapped up his comments by saying, "There has been loss of sleep over this. This will be the most disappointing, most difficult vote that I make on the Board, but it must be done."

Trustee Moore stated, "As the Treasurer and understanding the continued deficit, I agree that we cannot continue to bear the burden of this operation singly." "I would support closing it as an MCC-operated facility, with the understanding that we are going to open the option for our citizen consultants and possible other community stakeholders to look at the feasibility of continuing the center under any other name, any other ownership, giving a certain time period to see if they can come up with a feasible plan. We would work with them as well." As the Treasurer, she supports closing it as an MCC-owned and operated facility.

Trustee Oakes stated she is a little hesitant about the timeframe of this decision. "With the COVID-19 pandemic, the timing is just not right. It does not give others that would like to be heard adequate time. With the shortness of the time and with those that have been working on this, and the one day that they and even the Board had to make this decision, I believe it is unfair to all the people that spoke and all the people that can't be heard at this time."

A roll call vote was taken:

Chair Osborn – Yes

Vice Chair Mullally – Yes

Trustee Frye – No

Trustee Moore – Yes

Trustee Oakes – No

Trustee Portenga – Yes

Trustee Crandall – Yes

The motion passes.

Trustee Crandall made a motion that the Board look at alternatives, working with components of the community, to explore the future operation, management, and ownership of the Lakeshore Fitness Center facility; second. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Moore wanted to make sure that with this motion, it is understood that we are committed to maintaining that building throughout this discovery process, which will be a cost that was previously mentioned and/or estimated at \$5,000 or more per month, which is a component of this agreement.

Trustee Crandall responded he is in agreement with that and, "Ken hasn't given his estimate of what it would take and that's why there is no specific time limit to the motion. The Board can decide when they find out what the expense is for maintaining the closed facility status and decide how much time we are willing to give this before a different move is made." His thought is, "Since we've already been working with a couple of groups, have gotten suggestions from others, we should be able to put together a group in a relatively short period of time and come back with some specific recommendations, hopefully within 30-60 days on how we want to go forward, so it's not a long term commitment. The Board can decide to put a time limit on this once they receive the information on the exact cost of maintaining the facility in this closed state."

Trustee Frye moved that the motion be tabled until the Board receives the information from Ken Long and that it be tabled for 30-days; second. Discussion ensued.

A roll call vote was taken:

Chair Osborn – No

Vice Chair Mullally – No

Trustee Frye – Yes

Trustee Moore – No

Trustee Oakes – Yes

Trustee Portenga – No

Trustee Crandall – No

The motion to table failed.

Trustee Moore requested monthly updates from the President on the cost, what we are spending, as well as the efforts being made. President Nesbary responded, “Absolutely yes and for the last 18 months, we did provide as a Board agenda item reports every month on all of this, and continued to provide some of that information after that monthly agenda item came off. We will follow through and will also continue to work with our community partners to see what we need to do to make this a success.”

Vice Chair Mullally remarked, he has been very impressed with The Friends of the Lakeshore Fitness Center, who have been very active in organizing to support and save the center. He was a little surprised by some of the comments that they felt “their hands were tied” and wants to make sure we are including everybody in the community we can in our collaboration going forward, to find a good solution to this.

Trustee Frye noted she was surprised by the efforts that have been made by the Friends group that would bring in financial help, she did not know about some of those as it hasn’t been part of the information the Board has received on what the Friends were doing. She would like a list of what each one said today, of the contributions of different entities who wanted to give to this effort, as she didn’t realize some of that and would like that added.

Trustee Oakes asked whether the same committee is going to work together to look into the different ways that the LFC can continue as we move forward. Chair Osborn responded that at this point she sees the Board coming together as a whole component, meeting and outlining all of this, planning and sharing information, and confirmed the subcommittee is done.

A roll call vote was taken:

Chair Osborn – Yes

Vice Chair Mullally – Yes

Trustee Frye – Yes

Trustee Moore – Yes

Trustee Oakes – Yes

Trustee Portenga – Yes

Trustee Crandall – Yes

Vote unanimous; motion carried.

## 2. Announcements

### A. Board Comments

Trustee Frye stated she appreciated this meeting today and over 100 participants who showed their interest by attending via Zoom, and the letters the Board received, “Thank you for your leadership as well, and Dr. Nesbary, thank you.”

Vice Chair Mullally thanked the college staff and, “Particularly the Power Wellness staff who have given us years of very positive contributions to the community and the Lakeshore Fitness Center. It’s been a big change in a lot of people’s lives and that’s been a big help. I’m sorry it couldn’t continue in its current form any longer and we’re going to do everything we can to make sure we continue in some form.”

Chair Osborn thanked everyone for being a part of this meeting today, for all the comments. “It’s very difficult, a very difficult decision and we will certainly be keeping in touch with everyone. Thank you.”

Trustee Crandall echoed what Trustee Portenga said earlier, “This is one of the most difficult decisions we’ve had to make. This is not an easy decision, but unfortunately it was one that was necessary. I know I made it, and the rest of the Board made it, with a heavy heart. It’s not easy, it’s not the decision we wanted to make, but it’s the decision that we had to make for the benefit of the community college.”

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Nancy Frye.

/csd