



2017/2018 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

February 22, 2018

7:00 PM

Administration Building,
4th Floor, BCC Meeting Room, 477 Houston Street,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

The Charter Review Commission (CRC) met on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room, 4th floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, FL. Those in attendance at the meeting are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 29, 2018 meeting. Ronnie Coleman seconded the motion which carried 12-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Updated List of Charter Topics for Review

Madam Chair Pope-Wells reviewed the updated list of Charter Topics as presented.

Ms. Pope-Wells reported that over the last several weeks she had discussions with a number of citizens who have expressed their opinions with regard to the topic of At-Large Districts vs Single Member Districts and tasked the CRC to continue those conversations with their constituents to see if this topic needs to be revisited by the CRC.

Following those comments and at the request of Art Hooker, Madam Chair Pope-Wells explained to the CRC why she removed the topic of "Term Limits" from this CRC agenda as discussed at the last CRC meeting. She stated that the request to remove the item from the agenda was received from Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections, who informed her that he had a previous engagement and could not attend the meeting. He also stated that there were other attendees with the same previous engagement who might possibly like to attend the CRC as well, but could not due to the previously scheduled engagement. She explained that in his email, Mr. Chambless indicated that he felt it was important that he attend as many CRC meetings as he could to have a good grasp on the topics which may appear on the ballot and generate questions from the voters. Ms. Pope-Wells pointed out that after speaking with the CRC Attorney Vose she acted as Chair and removed the item from discussion as requested.

Following comments from Madam Chair Pope-Wells, Art Hooker made brief comments to the Chair and said that he did not want to see another delay in discussions regarding "Term Limits" by the CRC.

2. Discussion of Home Rule Charter

Selection Process/CRC Members

Madam Chair Pope-Wells informed the CRC that she addressed the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at their February 13, 2018 meeting with regard to CRC discussions pertaining to the CRC membership selection process.

She reported that the BCC took no formal action to create a policy whereby the Board would appoint members to the CRC in the same manner as alternates are appointed such that, to the extent reasonably possible, an equal number of members would reside within each District of the County. She added that despite such the BCC stated that they put every effort into finding qualified representatives to serve on the CRC from their Districts and indicated that they prefer the quality of the member over the quantity.

She further explained to the CRC that it was proposed at that meeting that the CRC might want to consider reducing the number of its members to help reduce the length of its meetings.

Following comments by Madam Chair Pope-Wells the CRC made brief comments about the remarks made by the BCC with regard to the selection process and spoke adamantly against the notion of reducing the number of its members.

With no further discussion with regard to the selection process of the CRC members, it was the consensus of the CRC to take no action and to remove the topic from the List of Charter Topics for discussion.

With regard to discussions about reducing the number CRC members, Larry Kirkman made the motion to leave the number of electors as members at 15, as stated in Article IV, Section 4.2 B of the Home Rule Charter. Ronnie Coleman seconded the motion which carried 12-0.

Citizen Initiatives

Madam Chair Pope-Wells began discussions with regard to Citizen Initiatives to address the subject regarding the percentage of signatures required to initiate a petition. CRC Attorney Vose provided the CRC with a comparison document detailing the required percentage of voters which was broken down by Florida's 20 County Charters. Ronald Stotler addressed the CRC.

CRC Attorney Vose reviewed the document with the CRC and answered questions posed by the CRC members.

With no further discussion with regard to Citizen Initiatives, it was the consensus of the CRC to take no action and to remove the topic from the List of Charter Topics for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.


CRC MEMBER COMMENTS

Ronald Stotler asked CRC Attorney Vose questions with regard to having an elected County Manager. Mr. Vose responded to Mr. Stotler and referenced "Optional County Charters" as defined in Chapter 125, Part IV, of the Florida Statutes.

Richard Klinzman addressed the CRC with regard to CRC member attendance and indicated that he has observed that Charles Cook and Alternate Charles Thompson have not been in attendance at any of the CRC meetings since the beginning. Mr. Klinzman asked that they be contacted and be requested to submit a formal resignation letter stating that they be removed from the CRC. Brief discussion followed. CRC Attorney Vose recommended that staff communicate with Mr. Cook and Mr. Thompson and inquire of them whether or not they intend to continue on the CRC. Madam Chair Pope-Wells asked staff to contact Mr. Cook and Mr. Thompson and to report back to the CRC with their findings.

It was the consensus of the CRC to hold their next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

With no further business, the CRC adjourned at 8:27 P.M.



Teresa Capo
Recording Secretary



Amy Pope-Wells
Madam Chair