

Charter Review Commission Meeting

November 6, 2015

The Charter Review Commission Meeting was held at Charlotte County Administration Building at 18500 Murdock Circle, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Dryburgh announced Thomas (Skip) P. Conroy III would be absent today.

Roll Call

The following Commission Members were present

William C. Abbatematteo	John Hitzel	W. Kevin Russell
Katherine D. Ariens	Julie Mathis	Thomas J. Thornberry
Jim M. Brown	Donald McCormick, Vice Chair	Stephen J. Vieira
William Dryburgh, Chair	Jerry J. O'Halloran	Frank C. Weikel
Paula Hess	Thomas J. Rice	

Attorney Robert Berntsson was also present.

Alternate Members Raymond A. Corcoran and John M. Davidson were not present.

Citizens present: David Kesselring
Michael Zarzano
Gary Roberts

I. Citizens Input

My name is Michael Zarzano, I am the Executive Director of a think tank called American Freedom Farm we grow freedom, not government. People are getting sick and tired of being sick and tired of government. With all due respect I give you this presentation today and I am not directing any of my comments to anyone in this room or any government in this County or in this State. These are general comments that are to be taken very seriously. I urge you to listen very carefully. It is a very serious matter we find ourselves in today. The people want their voice heard not squelched. I suggest you adopt a concept we call Zip Code congress and I ask you to read the handout I provided. It is district representation of we the little people in our own little zip code districts.

Chairman Dryburgh – Thank you very much.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Dryburgh – The minutes were emailed to everyone, are there any corrections or additions to the minutes? John Hitzel motioned for approval and Katherine D. Ariens seconded. Any discussion? All in favor say I. Everyone said I. Opposed (Silence)

III. Approval of Expenses

Chairman Dryburgh – Now to approval of our expense report, you picked it up when you came in. Thomas J. Rice motioned for approval and Julie Mathis seconded. Any discussion? All in favor say I. Everyone said I. Opposed (Silence)

IV. Old Business

Chairman Dryburgh – Does any subcommittee want to discuss and update the committee with their progress.

Thomas J. Rice – We just had a meeting this afternoon and we have drafted our final report. Our next subcommittee meeting is on December 16th at which time we will conclude our final report. We have several recommendations, but to say anything now would be premature.

William C. Abbatematteo – We did meet with three (3) of the Commissioners and have scheduled the remaining Commissioners and their staff. Commissioner Tricia Duffy will be interviewed on December 11th at 1:00 p.m. and Commissioner Christopher Constance will be interviewed on December 15th at 3:30 p.m.

Katherine D. Ariens – When we originally scheduled interviews, Sheriff Prummell could not make that date, but wanted to speak to us and we will be meeting with him on November 16th. After the meeting we are going to discuss our final report and then I am going to consolidate all of the information. We will be having another meeting to draft our final report and should be completed by December.

Julie Mathis – Our draft final report has been started and our subcommittee will meet on December 4th to discuss our recommendations.

Chairman Dryburgh – What I would like to do, if I can contact each of you individually, is see if in January we can start actually getting those report with your recommendations. In February, March at the latest we will start to narrow down what we want to send to the Commission.

Robert Berntsson – Typically in the past the public hearings have been in June, two (2) weeks a part. In early July we finished up and had our final Commission meeting. If we can get the reports done in January, February, then that gives me time to start writing potential questions for all of you to vote on.

V. New Business

Chairman Dryburgh – We have had some questions I forwarded to Mr. Berntsson about how you can talk to one another.

Robert Berntsson – Just a brief update on the Sunshine law, you cannot speak to one another except in a noticed public meeting, that includes via email or text message. You cannot speak about anything related to business of this Commission. The other prohibition, anyone is free to speak to any individual person one-on-one, but what you cannot do is have someone pass information to another member regarding their thoughts.

Paula Hess – What about organizational conversation i.e., are you available on the 15th?

Robert Berntsson – That is fine.

VI. Discussion

Julie Mathis – Can you review for us what happens when a subcommittee makes a recommendation, then as a whole Commission we vote and you draft the language.....

Robert Berntsson – Generally I think you are going to come with concepts to the extent that you can identify where in the Charter you are addressing an issue. Ultimately what we are doing is a ballot question that will result in a potential amendment, by either adding or deleting something from the Charter. The committee will have a list of questions that they will consider going onto the ballot, then you have the public hearing process and as a result of the public hearing process you determine which questions in fact will go on the ballot.

Chairman Dryburgh – Our next meeting is the last scheduled meeting. Future dates were discussed, scheduled and will be sent to each member.

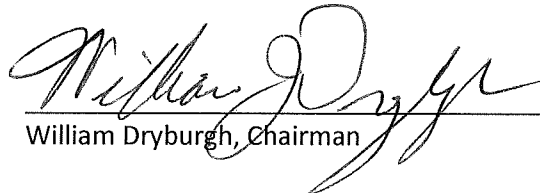
At this time; a suggestion to summarize the monthly minutes was recommended and a consensus was reached by the Commission.

Chairman Dryburgh – Any further discussion? (Silence) Our next meeting will be December 16th at 3:30 p.m. in this conference room.

VII. Citizens Input

My name is Michael Zarzano, first I would like to recommend you give the citizens who are your boss; believe it or not you do have a boss. We the People are the master, you are the servants and to allow your boss to speak for only five (5) minutes regarding the Charter Review of Charlotte County is absolutely embarrassing, especially if you call yourself an American. I am the Executive Director of American Freedom Farm we seek to grow freedom, not government. We fertilize with virtue the ground of government. I suggest you adopt a concept we call Zip Code congress and we would like to work with you, not against you and we would hope you would like to work with us too. We would like to offer you the valuable minds of citizens as aids to your efforts of governing the people of Charlotte County.

Adjourned at 4:10 pm


William Dryburgh, Chairman