



Charter Review Advisory Committee Minutes

May 28, 2019

Present

Steve Brandon
Lisa Coney
Bud Kirk, Jr.
Lawrence Lyman
Nick Pope
Marjorie Bridges
Amanda Day
James Johnston

Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuner
City Clerk Cynthia Bonham
City Attorney Dan Langley
Facilitator Marilyn Crotty

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Marilyn Crotty at 6:05 p.m. in the Oak Room 'C', Winter Park Community Center, 721 West New England Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.

City Clerk Bonham called the roll. Amanda Day was not present for roll call but arrived moments later.

The following residents provided comments:

Greg Seidel (Commissioner) spoke about Section 3.01 and the need to be clear and further define the meaning of non-partisan elections.

Nancy Shutts, 2010 Brandywine Drive, spoke about the need for clarification of non-partisan elections; was not in favor of single member districts; that the Commissioners compensation needs to increase; and that each Commissioner should have more input regarding board appointments. She spoke in opposition to the funds designated for 10 years to the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center.

Mary Daniels, 650 Canton Avenue, spoke about the lack of representation on the Westside; that Commissioners should be more fairly compensated; and that she was in favor of single member districts because of the need for all citizens to be fairly represented. She spoke about CRA funds being used for other projects.

Michael Perelman, 1010 Greentree Drive, commented that the Commissioners pay should be up to the residents; that board eligibility should be clarified in Section 2.02; and to review the rules of the Commission that they must be present to vote (Section 2.08(d)) and should be able to phone in and have their vote count.

Kim Allen, 1800 W. Fawsett Road, presented documents regarding the City's vision regarding inclusiveness; wanted to see the board composition process change when appointing members; addressed the Enterprise Fund and to limit it to their intended purposes; and to not consider payments to organizations located outside the City.

Approval of minutes

Motion made by Lisa Coney to approve the May 14 minutes, seconded by Steve Brandon and carried unanimously with an 8-0 vote.

Ms. Crotty summarized what was agreed upon at the previous meeting and asked if there were any changes. The following actions were taken:

Preamble. After further comments, there was a consensus to add the word 'diverse' in front of inclusion that was added at the last meeting ('creating an open, diverse, inclusive, and responsible government').

Section 1.03 (revised last meeting) - need to change Council/Manager to Commission/Manager form of government.

Section 2.03, Judge of Election, Qualification, and Forfeiture (added last meeting) of members. It was agreed to add the language as recommended by Ms. Crotty regarding forfeiture as within the model charter example.

Discussion ensued regarding advertising in newspapers. There was a consensus to delete the language concerning this and to add language regarding notice to individuals. Ms. Crotty will provide changed language for the committee to agree on.

Section 2.01 Ms. Crotty explained the current composition and that the commissioners can live wherever they want to and that they are elected at large. She explained options either to leave as is, could have geographic districts where they are elected at-large but they have to live in a designated district in the City. She explained the Mayor can live any place and the remainder of the City would be divided into four districts and only people who live in that district could run for the seat but that everyone in the City would vote for them. She explained another option - single member districts, where the city would be divided into four districts and only the people living in those districts would vote for that seat. She commented that mostly very large communities have single member districts.

She addressed pros and cons of single member districts. City Budget Manager Peter Moore provided statistics created by the City's GIS administrators where they used 2010 census data. He showed the population counts at that time during each block in 2010 that can be adjusted but that the growth has been fairly flat during the last nine years. He broke up the blocks by different ethnic and racial groups. Ms. Crotty clarified when you divide into districts you have to have equal numbers of people in each district as

close as possible and the districts have to be compact and contiguous. The current commissioners' residency was shown on a map to help the committee better understand the breakdown of four districts. Mr. Moore showed different scenarios with different possible boundaries.

Committee members expressed what they were considering at this time but with no agreement across the board. After further comments, there was not a consensus to agree on which option the committee wanted to recommend. This will be brought back for further discussion. Staff will provide historical information as to where commissioners have lived, will provide PDF maps of the racial and ethnic makeup of the city, and looking at various applications and densities and will provide scenario breakdowns within each of those as examples.

Ms. Crotty explained how lines would be drawn using an independent districting commission or done by the City Commissioners. This would be included in the Charter as a process for determining the districts and transition of existing commissioners' terms.

The meeting was opened again for citizen comments.

LaWanda Thompson, 664 W. Lyman Avenue, commented she believed the Westside has been ruined and that the residents will do what they have to do to fix it because they want their neighborhood back and want a voice.

Sally Flynn, 1400 Highland Road, clarified the process for charter review that will take place with the committee only making recommendations to the Commission and that voters will decide what changes will be made in the charter.

Mary Daniels, 650 Canton Avenue, expressed her understanding with the committee members making recommendations to the Commission. Attorney Langley explained the Commission will then decide whether to accept, reject or modify the recommendations. The voters then decide upon what is on the ballot. He explained the residents need to provide their comments and recommendations. She expressed her displeasure with the committee not having representation of the west Winter Park residents.

Nancy Shutts, 2010 Brandywine, commented if the Westside residents want representation they need to be more engaged in wanting to run for Commission and felt an increase in compensation would help with that. She commented Commissioners all represent the entire city and not individual neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.