



Charter Review Advisory Committee Minutes

June 11, 2019

Present

Steve Brandon
Lisa Coney
Bud Kirk, Jr.
Lawrence Lyman
Nick Pope (by phone)
Marjorie Bridges
Amanda Day
James Johnston
Mary Daniels

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 5:00 p.m. in the Oak Room 'C', Winter Park Community Center, 721 West New England Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.

City Clerk Cindy Bonham called the roll. All members were present with Nick Pope by telephone.

The following resident provided comments:

Michael Perelman, 1010 Greentree Drive, commented that he wants to see what each Commissioner has presented for possible Charter changes; the public should set Commissioners salaries; wanted all documents provided to the committee to also be provided to the public; the public should be able to provide comments on the draft minutes; and asked why 2.18, Local Code of Ethics is in the Charter.

Approval of minutes

Motion made by Lisa Coney to approve the May 28 minutes, seconded by Steve Brandon and carried unanimously with an 9-0 vote.

Ms. Crotty summarized what was agreed upon at the previous meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the addition of details in Section 2.03, Forfeiture of Members and how specific this section should be to outline the process. Ms. Crotty will research this and bring back options.

There was discussion regarding districts. Attorney Langley provided guidance on proportional voting that he researched. He stated that cities have flexibility in how they implement their elections providing there are no conflicts with State law. He stated there is nothing that prohibits the city from adopting a representational single

transferrable voting system except that the City cannot implement this because of the lack of certified software available to implement this system. Attorney Langley provided a copy from the Herald-Tribune regarding 'ranked choice voting' speaking to this issue that the Sarasota City Commission had. Upon further discussion and comments, there was a consensus to address districts later in the process to allow more time for review and to study it.

Section 2.04, Term of Office. Ms. Crotty spoke about the options and that the four-year term is becoming more common so there would be reduce the frequency of elections. Ms. Crotty provided a transition schedule if four-year terms with elections every other year on even years passed that Attorney Langley believed was viable. After members provided their preference, there was not a consensus to change the term of office.

'Term limits' were discussed and the need to make this clear in the Charter as to how long one must sit out before being able to run for office again. Attorney Langley provided his interpretation of 'consecutive' within the current Charter. After comments, there was no consensus to change term limits.

Section 2.05, Compensation. Ms. Crotty explained that normally the Commission determines the salary by ordinance as it currently is. The March 10, 2011 date in the current Charter will be deleted as it is obsolete. Ms. Crotty explained options that other cities are doing to compensate their Commissioners. Members provided their preferences and addressed the need to better compensate the Commission that would also encourage others to run for office. After further discussion, there was a consensus to set a base annual salary (that will be decided on after Ms. Crotty provides input from her research) and to increase or decrease annually based on the Consumer Price Index (not to exceed 5%).

Section 2.06. Functions of Mayor; Vice Mayor. Need to change the part regarding the appointment of Vice Mayor because of a run-off this year. Delete 'At the first regular commission meeting in April' to 'At the first regular commission meeting after certification of all elections' or something similar that the committee agrees to in case of a run-off election.

The role of the Mayor as included in the current Charter was addressed in whole and whether the committee was in agreement to change what is currently there. Discussion ensued regarding the sentence where the mayor appoints members of city boards annually. Ms. Crotty provided options whether to eliminate that or leave as is. Some members wanted to see that eliminated from the Charter and to provide the opportunity to all commissioners to recommend board members, but there was not a consensus (75% of the members in agreement) to do that. This will remain in the Charter.

Citizen comments:

Nancy Shutts, 2010 Brandywine, spoke about the Orlando Business Journal 10 years ago providing commission salaries that would be interesting to look at. She expressed

disappointment that the portion was not removed regarding the Mayor appointing board members.

Sally Flynn, 1400 Highland Road, asked that the portion be removed giving the Mayor the authority to appoint board members.

Barbara Chandler, 730 Minnesota Avenue, believed the process is broken for board appointments and that the portion should be deleted from the Charter that the Mayor annually appoints board members.

Commissioner Todd Weaver, 1051 Lake Bell Drive, addressed serving on the Lakes Board and applied for other boards after his term was up but was not appointed to other boards. He believed the procedure needs to be changed for appointments to boards.

Commissioner Carolyn Cooper commented about serving the City on boards for 12 years and that she is allowed to speak individually with citizens to answer questions and provide information she has access to that they are not aware of.

Ms. Crotty reminded the committee about the 6:00 p.m. meeting start time for the remainder of the meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Cynthia Bonham, City Clerk