

**Charter Review Commission
Other Boards and Agencies
Subcommittee Meeting
October 7, 2015**

A meeting of the Charter Review Commission, Other Boards and Agencies Subcommittee was held at Charlotte County Administration Complex, Room B-106, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Roll Call

The following Commission Other Boards and Agencies members were present:

Thomas J. Rice, Chairman

Kevin Russell

Thomas J. Thornberry

Citizens: None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Rice.

Agenda Items:

- I. Approval of September 29, 2015 meeting minutes signed and adopted.
- II. Citizens Input – None at this time.
- III. Old Business
Interviews previously scheduled with Charlotte/DeSoto Building Industry Association, Charlotte Board of Realtors and Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council and the interviewees had been provided the list of questions prior to this meeting.
- IV. New Business
Interview with Suzanne Graham, Governmental Affairs Chairman, Charlotte/DeSoto Building Industry Association
Interview with Sharon Neuhofer, Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, North Port Association of Realtors
Interview with Robert J. Humpel, Vice President, Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council

The representatives stated they had not polled members of their organizations on the earlier questions sent to them from the subcommittee and below are the comments offered on their behalf.

Are there changes in the current election process that should be considered:

Single Member Districts

Each representative stated that the current Charter requirement for countywide representation of members of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) should remain as stated in the Charter without change.

Term Limits

Each representative stated the current Charter language should not be changed to specify term limits.

Partisan vs Non-partisan Elections

Sharon Neuhofer and Robert Humpel stated all elections should remain partisan elections.

Suzanne Graham stated the Constitutional Offices should be Non-Partisan elections and the BOCC elections should remain Partisan.

Campaign Contribution Limits

Each representative stated campaign contributions should not be limited any further than what is currently specified in the Charter.

Should County Department Heads and members of Administration be required to be county residents?

Sharon Neuhofer stated residency should be required and confirmation made of physical residency and not accept only a post office box address.

Suzanne Graham stated there should not be an exception to the residency requirement other than three (3) to six (6) months as part of the transition for a new hire.

Robert Humpel stated residency should be required, but the County should have some flexibility in transition time requirements for new hires.

Note: The current residency requirement for Administration and staff specified in the County's Human Resources policy was shared with the representatives and they generally agreed with the requirements. They asked if staff compliance with this policy could be confirmed.

Should Constitutional Officers be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners or elected?

Each representative stated Constitutional Officers should continue to be elected as is now required in the current County Charter.

Should the County Administrator be appointed or elected?

Each representative stated the County Administrator should continue to be appointed as is now required in the current County Charter.

At the last Charter Review Commission in 2010, the County Director of Economic Development was changed to report directly to the Board of County Commissioners – Has that been successful?

Each representative stated the current reporting relationship of the County Director of Economic Development should remain as it is currently structured in the County Charter.

Suzanne Graham noted the change has had a learning curve for both the Director and the members of the BOCC.

Robert Humpel stated the change has worked to improve communications between the Director and the BOCC.

Should the Community Redevelopment Agencies, Municipal Service Benefit Units and Municipal Service Taxing Units be required to "sunset" or reconstituted for designated time periods?

Each representative stated that MSBUs and MSTUs should be established for set time periods and renewal for additional terms should require justification approved by the BOCC.

Should they require re-approval at certain time limits?

Each representative agreed that MSTUs and MSBUs have specified extension time limits.

Sharon Neuhofer suggested extensions of five (5) to seven (7) years.

Robert Humpel stated extensions should have time limits, but stated the BOCC should have flexibility in setting those extension periods.

Should the percentage of the required signatures for the public to propose a change or a new ordinance be reduced from 10 percent to another number?

Suzanne Graham stated the percentage should be increased.

Sharon Neuhofer stated no change to the current Charter requirement is needed.

Robert Humpel stated the required percentage should not be too easy, but did not suggest a specific percentage.

Are there other changes to the County Home Charter that should be considered?

None of the representatives had additional suggestions for any additions or changes to the subcommittee for consideration.

V. Discussion

At this point, the scheduled interviews were concluded and the members continued with the remainder of the agenda. The members confirmed the next subcommittee meeting is October 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., with the final scheduled interviews. Originally a meeting was set for October 30, 2015 to interview representatives of the Charlotte County Schools, but they have declined the invitation to meet with the subcommittee. The members discussed other community organizations that could be invited to this meeting to encourage additional participation in the Charter Review process. The subcommittee decided to extend invitations to the following groups to attend the October 30th meeting starting at 2:00 p.m., to give their comments to the subcommittee:

- South County Alliance
- League of Women Voters
- Curmudgeon's Club
- Rotunda West Association
- Englewood Chamber of Commerce (were invited to an earlier meeting but did not attend)

The new groups will be shared with the next full meeting of the Charter Review Commission to see if there are other groups to include. After these final interviews, the subcommittee will schedule meetings to begin preparation of the final report.

VI. Citizens Input – None

VII. Adjournment: Upon motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.



Thomas J. Rice, Chairman