

**Charter Review Commission
Other Boards and Agencies
Subcommittee Meeting
October 30, 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 Other Boards and Agencies subcommittee members were present:

Thomas J. Rice, Chairman

Kevin Russell

Absent:

Thomas J. Thornberry

Citizens: None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman Rice.

Agenda Items:

- I. Citizens Input – None
- II. Old Business
Interviews previously scheduled with the League of Women Voters, Rotonda West Association and City Council of Punta Gorda. The interviewees had been provided the list of questions prior to this meeting. The Curmudgeon Club and South County Alliance declined to be interviewed. The Englewood Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, Ed Hill and Punta Gorda Councilmember, District 4, Tom Cavanaugh were unable to attend. Their answers to the questions are attached.
- III. New Business
Interview with Jean Finks, President and Nicole Noles, League of Women Voters
Interview with Jay Lyons, Manager, Rotonda West Association
Interview with Carolyn Freeland, City Council of Punta Gorda

Each representative stated they were commenting on their own behalf, not on behalf of their organization.

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

Single Member Districts

Jay Lyons, Carolyn Freeland and Nicole Noles stated the current Charter requirement for Countywide representation of members of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) should remain as stated without change.

Jean Finks stated BOCC members should be elected by single member district.

Term Limits

Jay Lyons stated the current Charter language should not be changed to specify term limits.

Jean Finks, Nicole Noles and Carolyn Freeland stated terms should be limited to a maximum of 2-3 terms.

Partisan vs Non-partisan Elections

Jay Lyons stated elections should be Partisan.

Jean Finks, Nicole Noles and Carolyn Freeland stated that the elections should be Non-partisan.

Campaign Contribution Limits

Jay Lyons stated the limits should be capped at \$500 per donor. Total amount a campaign could raise should also be capped.

Carolyn Freeland said the cap should be \$200 to \$500.

Jean Finks and Nicole Noles said the current maximum of \$1000 per person should remain the same.

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

All of the attendees agreed that the current County policy requiring members of Administration and Department Directors remain in place with assurances the policy was enforced.

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

All of the attendees agreed that all of the Constitutional Officers should be elected as is presently done and stated again the elections should be Non-partisan.

Should the County Administrator be appointed or elected?

All of the attendees 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?

Jay Lyons stated the Executive Director should report directly to the Chair of the BOCC instead of all of the Commissioners.

Nicole Noles agreed with Mr. Lyons and Jean Finks stated to leave the current reporting relationship as it is currently.

Carolyn Freeland stated the Director should report to the County Administrator as it was done before the Charter change in 2010.

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

Jay Lyons stated his experience with the Rotonda West MSBU's worked well and did not think automatic sunsets should be required. Mr. Lyons did state an MSBU should not spend any funds without the local Advisory Board's approval and approval by the BOCC.

Jean Finks and Nicole Noles stated the role of the Advisory Board for MSBU's/MSTU's in the Charter should be clarified.

Carolyn Freeland stated the Advisory Board for each MSBU/MSTU should report to the BOCC annually particularly on any recommendation to spend money.

Should they require re-approval at certain time limits?

None of the attendees stated MSBU's/MSTU's should require renewal provisions, but should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

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?

All of the attendees stated the Charter should be changed to a flat total of 5,000 required signatures to propose a change or new ordinance. (The subcommittee also received a written comment from John Wright, Executive Director, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce that his Board recommends the current 10% requirement be kept at the same percentage.

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

Carolyn Freeland stated the BOCC should review the "best practices" issued by the Government Financial Officers Association when developing the County's budget, financial reserves and setting debt limits.

Jay Lyons, Jean Finks, and Nicole Noles agreed with this recommendation.

At this time, Carolyn Freeland brought up several sections of the current Charter which appeared to have typographical errors or require clarification and asked these sections be reviewed and amended.

The sections in question were:

Section 2.2 G. (2); "by the approval by the supervisor or elections".... should be of?

Section 2.2 G. (3); "it shall, be resolution," and "those registered electors voting the on the question".... should these words be removed?

Section 2.2 H.; "The board of county commissioners may abolish a board of advisors by ordinance after a public hearing, and, upon abolition of the board of advisors, no new petition for the creation of a board of advisors, shall be considered for a period of two (2) years." Recommend to delete the final portion of this sentence to give the BOCC flexibility to appoint advisory boards at their discretion without the required two (2) year delay.

Section 2.2 I. (5); "Inadequacy or inaccuracy of an economic impact estimate shall not be grounds for invalidation of a county ordinance." The recommendation was to add the word "alone" after the word "grounds".

Section 4.2 A. and B. (1); "shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter".... is this correct or should it be "or" instead of "and"?

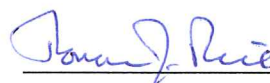
Section 4.2 C. (2); "shall elect a chairman and vice chairman form among".... should be from?

IV. Discussion

At this point, the scheduled interview was concluded and the members continued with the remainder of the agenda. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. and this time will be used to begin a draft of the subcommittee's final report. Chairman Rice will start a draft of the report format based on the 2010 report for review and inclusion of recommendations.

V. Citizens Input – None

VI. Adjournment: Upon motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 PM.



Thomas J. Rice, Chairman

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

- ❖ Single Member Districts: **Yes, single member districts**
- ❖ Term Limits: **Yes, there should be term limits**
- ❖ Partisan vs Non-partisan Elections: **For Non-Partisan Elections**
- ❖ Campaign Contribution Limits: **Yes, there should be limits**

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

No, I do not feel they need to be county residents. The policy is not practical with "multiple" counties being so close to one another.

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

Appointed

Should the County Administrator be appointed or elected?

Appointed

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?

My observation is this position could be more effective if the Director reported to the County Administrator.

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

MSBU's/MSTU's should be set up for designated time periods.

Should they require re-approval at certain time limits?

I feel there should be a re-approval provision.

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?

The 10% number should not be reduced.

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

None that come to my mind.

Attachment #2
Punta Gorda Councilmember
District 4
Tom Cavanaugh

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

- ❖ Single Member Districts: [Should remain Status Quo](#)
- ❖ Term Limits: [Should be limited to two \(2\) terms](#)
- ❖ Partisan vs Non-partisan Elections: [Not necessary for Constitutional Officers](#)
- ❖ Campaign Contribution Limits: [Absolutely](#)

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

[No](#)

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

[Elected](#)

Should the County Administrator be appointed or elected?

[Appointed](#)

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?

[Not in my opinion](#)

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

[Reconstituted as necessary](#)

Should they require re-approval at certain time limits?

[Yes](#)

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?

[No](#)

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

[No](#)