

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Minutes of Special Meeting
January 7, 2010

A special meeting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and sub-Committee chairpersons of the Charter Review Commission was held at the Administration Complex, Room 106-B, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Roll Call

The following members were present: *Ken Doherty (Chairman), Kevin Russell (Vice Chairman), Johnny Vernon, Bill Folchi, Joseph Goggin.* (*Vice Chairman Russell* arrived at 4:05 p.m.).

In addition to these members *Robert Berntsson, Esq.*, counsel for CRC, was present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by *Chairman Doherty*. *Chairman Doherty* noted the delay pending late arrivals.

Agenda Items

(1) PROPOSED FLYER/HANDOUT. *Chairman Doherty* referred to a draft of a proposed handout/flyer which he had prepared relevant to the next general meeting on January 21, 2010 and which was previously distributed to the CRC membership for review and comments. He commented on the fact that the meeting to be held on January 21, 2010 was going to be treated as a public “meeting” rather than a public “hearing”, consistent with the opinion of the County Attorney. *Vice Chairman Russell* observed that all meetings could be considered public meetings if they have public input, and *Chairman Doherty* confirmed that public input was incorporated into all Agendas.

Bill Folchi asked how the proposed handout/flyer was to be distributed and *Chairman Doherty* explained that this would be e-mailed to each CRC member who could then reproduce and/or distribute it to their various contacts and organizations. In response to a question by *Johnny Vernon* it was confirmed that there are no limitations on where or to whom this flyer can be distributed. *Chairman Doherty* then went over the email comments received from several members and sent to administrative support (regarding suggestions as to the construction of this flyer). Each one was discussed and the

members present also brought up their own comments and suggested revisions. The flyer/handout will be put in final form by administrative support, and that product is attached to these Minutes as Attachment "A".

Chairman Doherty addressed the issue of gathering online input, and stated that this will begin to be implemented more fully after the January 21st meeting. *Attorney Berntsson* also commented on a web application modeled after the Comprehensive Plan. Comments of this nature had also been offered by email from *Paula Hess*. There was brief discussion of the construction of this web application based on information received by administrative support at an earlier meeting with Jim Fendrick of Growth Management.

(2) ESTABLISH FORMAT FOR MEETING. The meeting then addressed the issue of the Agenda and logistics of the CRC/Public meeting to be held on January 21, 2010.

As an introduction to the public, *Chairman Doherty* proposes to have a brief Power Point™ presentation outlining the Charter Review Commission and its scope. *Bill Folchi* expressed the importance of also outlining for the public the parameters for their input. There was discussion as to time limits, and it was decided that the accepted length of time for each citizen to speak during public input would be three (3) minutes. The citizens would be advised that written input will be accepted if they were exceeding that time limit. *Vice Chairman Russell* indicated that the public should also be advised that written input is accepted. In response to a question by *Bill Folchi*, *Chairman Doherty* advised that any such written input, as well as oral input at the public meeting, would be discussed at the next regular meeting on February 18, 2010. Also during this discussion *Attorney Berntsson* suggested notices to the news media, and *Vice Chairman Russell* volunteered that he would contact Brian Gleason for a possible front page interview. *Vice Chairman Russell* later brought up the subject of also getting other Commission members thoughts and input during discussion, as some CRC members may have issues they would like examined by the respective sub-Committees.

There was then discussion of where the members will sit and how the Meeting Room 119 will be set up. It was decided not to crowd on the upper level and administrative support will meet with Facilities and arrange for options for seating the CRC on the main floor.

Discussion of the structure of the Agenda then followed, establishing the order of regular business in relation to the public input portion.

Chairman Doherty reviewed his plans for a Power Point™ presentation. In response to a question by *Bill Folchi*, administrative support will double-check the length of time meeting room 119 is available on 01/21/2010.

(3). COMMISSION COMMENTS. *Johnny Vernon* presented a question regarding Minutes for the Board of County Commissioners sub-Committee meeting he has

scheduled for 01/28/2010 and was advised that administrative support will be present and the meeting will also be taped. *Chairman Doherty* initiated a discussion on the sub-Committee placement of the new alternate. (NOTE: a vacancy occurred when member *Don McElroy* resigned; first alternate *Michael Grant* assumed full voting member status). It was decided that the new alternate would be placed on the Constitutional Officers sub-Committee, and *Chairman Doherty* asked if there was any objection to his serving on two committees to round-out the population of voting members. There being no objection from those present *Chairman Doherty* will serve and vote on Other Boards and Agencies sub-Committee and Administration Staff sub-Committee. A copy of the revised sub-Committee Assignments chart is attached to these Minutes as Attachment "B". *Attorney Berntsson* then pointed out that the reason a new alternate is being appointed right away is because alternates should be able to attend all meetings. The Board of County Commissioners has two applicants to choose from and will make the appointment at their next meeting on 01/12/2010. That still leaves one name to step up and serve as an alternate in the event of future vacancies, so the County will not be advertising for anyone new at this time.

(4) PUBLIC INPUT. Citizen *Stephen R. Deutsch* attended this meeting and stated that he had previously served on a charter review commission. He observed that the public is more likely to react to a situation rather than initially give input. He suggested letters to the editor as a means of inviting participation. He also stated that there should be an overview of the parameters of responsibility of the CRC and *Chairman Doherty* responded that this would be handled during his aforementioned Power Point™ presentation.

(5) ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. EST.

Kenneth W. Doherty, Chairman

ATTACHMENT "A"



**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, ROOM 140
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA 33948
(941) 623-1087**

CHARTER "PUBLIC INPUT" MEETING

RE: CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

The 2009-2010 Charlotte County Charter Review Commission requests your participation during the "Public Input" portion of its regular meeting in January:

- **WHEN:** January 21, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Murdock Administration Center –18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida

PURPOSE:

The Charlotte County Charter Review Commission **WANTS YOUR INPUT!** Since January 1, 1986 when Charlotte County's Home Rule Charter went into effect, the Board of County Commission has selected, every six (6) years thereafter, a Charter Review Commission (CRC) "to review the home rule charter and propose any amendments or revisions which may be advisable for placement on the general election ballot."

The 2009-2010 CRC held its initial organizational meeting on September 17, 2009, has subsequently met on the 3rd Thursday of each month, and will continue to do so through July 2010. State law requires that the CRC also hold a minimum of three (3) public hearings relative to any proposed Charter amendment or revision. These public hearings obviously cannot occur until amendments/revisions have been drafted.

With the CRC's four (4) committees now underway with the "interview" portion of the Charter's review, the 2009-2010 CRC has decided to structure its January meeting primarily for the **purpose of receiving public input from the residents of Charlotte County prior to drafting any potential charter amendments/revisions;** believing that this additional opportunity for the public to provide input to the CRC would better serve the entire Charter review process. If you are unable to attend, this input can also be submitted in **writing** to the **CRC offices as shown above**, or by email to Administrative Support: ann.pinder@charlottefl.com

HOME RULE CHARTER:

To obtain information on Charlotte County's Home Rule Charter and the 2009 – 2010 Charter Review Commission please go to:

<http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CharterReviewCommission/>

The CRC sincerely hopes that you will take time to participate during the "Public Input" portion of the January meeting; to let the CRC know what changes, if any, you believe are needed to Charlotte County's government.

