

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2010**

A special meeting of the sub-Committee chairpersons was held in Room 106B, Administration Complex, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida .

Roll Call

The following members were present:

*Ken Doherty (Chairman), Kevin Russell (Vice-Chairman), Julie Mathis, Bill Folchi, Maureen Garrard, Johnny Vernon, Tom Rice.* Also present were *Joseph Goggin* and *Andy Dodd*.

In addition, the meeting was attended by *Robert Berntsson, Esq.* , counsel for the CRC.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. EDT by *Chairman Ken Doherty*

Agenda Items

1. This meeting was called to **discuss and enhance the presentation of the proposed Amendments** at Public Hearing and beyond. *Chairman Doherty* began by briefly discussing the basic format for public hearings, mentioning the need to avoid engaging in a dialogue with the speakers. The members present gave their verbal agreement with this policy. It was observed that there may be precipitating factors in the County which created a climate of misunderstanding among those members of the public who had attended the hearings thus far. In an effort to clarify the position of the CRC and dispel erroneous information, *Bill Folchi* had previously submitted a suggestion to add a synopsis and brief statement of “pros” and “cons” to each of the proposed Amendments. In discussion it was agreed that this format would be followed. *Chairman Doherty* observed that there had been some repetition among the speakers at Public Hearing, and *Andy Dodd* suggested a format that would invite input on an amendment by amendment basis. *Maureen Garrard* said that the presentation by the Chairman at the beginning of each Public meeting should include a brief review of civics, including emphasizing that all proceedings are in the Sunshine, the CRC members serve in a voluntary capacity, etc. *Ms. Garrard* also mentioned the fact that this Commission is empowered to place Amendments on the ballot without the consent of the BCC, but the ultimate decision belongs to the voters. *Julie Mathis* added that one area of citizen

concern was that not all of the topics were presented to the voters as proposed Amendments, indicating that in her opinion that should have taken place. Discussion followed that the election-related issues would now be prohibited as a result of HB-131. Mr. Berntsson observed that it would be prudent to follow that law as it now exists.

Discussion turned to future meetings, and *Chairman Doherty* brought up the deadline of July 15, 2010 at 4:50 p.m. EDT to have all of the Charter Review Commission's work submitted for the BCC agenda. *Mr. Doherty* mentioned adding final discussion on the proposed Amendments at the conclusion of Public Input at the meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and/or adding an additional meeting on July 8, 2010 for purpose of the final vote. *Ms. Garrard* liked the idea of discussion at the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in front of the public and other officials, observing that since public perception had thus far been negative it would be beneficial to have them see the rationale at work. Mr. Berntsson suggested that the respective Agendas allow voting at both meetings. *Chairman Doherty* added that the Final Report will also be discussed and finalized at these meetings.

Returning to the upcoming Public Hearings, *Chairman Doherty* stated that he would only respond to mis-statements of facts during public input, in order to provide the proper information to those present. *Johnny Vernon* agreed that this should be done, emphasizing that only *Chairman Doherty* should respond. Further, it was determined that because of time constraints the proposal to add explanatory language to the Amendments would be discussed by the full membership at the upcoming meeting on June 17, 2010. Pursuant to that discussion, this group would meet again and the enhanced language would be finalized for distribution as well as being posted on the website. At this time the members recalled the discussions and factors that created the ten proposed Amendments and *Tom Rice, Kevin Russell, Maureen Garrard* and *Ken Doherty* volunteered to address individual Amendments. Robert Berntsson cautioned that these submissions should be factual only and not contain opinions. At this time *Chairman Doherty* distributed a rough outline of the table of contents for the Final Report, asking each sub-Committee chairperson for their input of matters to be included, based on their sub-Committees interviews.

*Chairman Doherty* briefly mentioned the balance remaining in the CRC budget, and it was decided that no request for additional funding should be made at this time.

**2. Public Input.** None

**3. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. EDT

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Kenneth W. Doherty, Chairman