



Minutes of
February 20, 2018

Members in attendance: Alice Hunt, Christian Spinosa, Cassandra Denmark, Drew Crawford, Bob English, Charles McPherson, Robert Stanz, Mike Hickman, Greg Masters, Clay Watkins, Lisa Jensen, Bart Allen and Patty Schmidt.

Members Absent: Ramon Edwards Vicioso

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes Charter Review Commission (CRC) Meeting on January 16, 2018

- Motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2018 – Patty Schmidt
- Second – Christian Spinosa
- **Minutes approved unanimously**

Financial Report

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

No discussion – documentation for review purpose only

Email/Website/Communications

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

No discussion – documentation for review purpose only

CRC Recommendations

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

Term Limits Ballot Language

Drew Crawford reviewed the ballot language in regard to changing the term limits for the BoCC from 8 years to 12 years. This draft language will be used in the primary basis for the CRC report. When the report is done in the next coming months; if there are comments, questions or concerns; they can be edited at that time and change the ballot language.

Alice Hunt had a concern with the first sentence of the ballot (Amends the County Charter to prohibit an incumbent from appearing on the ballot for re-election to the office of County Commissioner if, by the end of the current term of office, the incumbent will have served (or, but for resignation would



have served) as a Commissioner for twelve (12) consecutive years., she felt it had a negative connotation; she wasn't sure if it would affect the vote and is it a typical way to start a ballot amendment. Drew Crawford explained this language is typical for Polk County; they usually begin their charter amendments historically with the words "amends the County Charter". The language "to prohibit" is a positive action even though it has a negative connotation. If the wording is unacceptable we can rephrase it. Alice Hunt asked the input of the other attorneys in the room and they all felt it was fine.

Old Business

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

Alice Hunt explained there is a revised and addition to what was discussed at the last meeting in regards to the timeline. She explained the Supervisor of Elections Office will need the CRC's ballot language sooner than later. She reviewed the (3) Town Hall Meeting dates: 5/1/18, 5/14/18 and 5/24/18. She continued to review the document. She explained at the June 5th meeting if there were public comments made at any of the Town Hall Meeting there may be an action which will have to take place at this meeting. The June 5th meeting will be for finalizing what has been done, adding and/or tweaking per the public comments. The final copy will go to the County Managers Office and Supervisor of Elections on June 8, 2018. There was a concern as to the 5/24/18 being on or near Memorial Day, after some discussion all of these dates will stay as they are.

Final Action Item(s)

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

Clay Watkins stated the number of years between meeting be 12 years.

- Motion we make the time period 12 years between required Charter Review commission – Greg Masters
- Second – Christian Spinosa

Open Discussion:

Alice Hunt reviewed the "Potential Cost Savings" document with the commissioners; there is a savings by removing the Efficiency Commission and changing when the CRC meets. Drew Crawford did a brief review of section 8.4 of the Polk County Charter and explained what the ballot language would be for this amendment. There was continued discussion on the language which will be used on the ballot which could include the BoCC can call a Charter Review Commission together at any time. Patty Schmidt asked about the chartered counties who meet every 10 years between meetings how long are the commissioner's terms is it 4 or 3.

Greg Masters asked about the City of Lakeland and the City of Winter Haven, what is the frequency the city's review their charters? Drew Crawford stated Winter Haven just did their 1st Charter Review in 40 plus years. He stated most of the cities his firm represents have a decennial review occurring the



same time as the census. Once the cities are reapportioned then they have a charter review to determine if there are any updates. 10 years is a pretty standard period; 8 years is a little short, 12 years is within the realm of reason and the states constitution is 20. Lisa Jensen stated the time to census these things is 10 years, that is sort of a natural time. There was a continued discussion on when the census takes place and how it affects the redistricting in the county. Lisa Jensen asked if it was 2022; it takes a full year to get the information. So in 2011 is the year the information is analyzed; then 2022 would be the effective year. Bob English asked about if the charter requires redistricting periodically. It is in the charter Section 2.2; this was read aloud to the commission.

The time period 12 years between required Charter Review commission meets - approved unanimously

New Business

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

None brought forward.

CRC Member Comments

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

There have been no comments emailed or phoned in. There was a question about the Town Hall Meetings; if people bring up issues at this point and time; are they able to bring up issues other than what we already have. Alice Hunt explained yes they can; the purpose of these town hall meetings is 1) for the CRC to share what has been done by this commission and 2) for the CRC to hear from the public. If there are things needing to be discussed it will be done at the June 5th meeting. There may not be a lot since we haven't received anything from the public at this point, this is why we go out into the community. Christian Spinosa asked about the dates of the Town Hall Meetings being published in the newspaper and Facebook. Alice Hunt also stated we are trying to get The Ledger to pick up an article on the Town Hall Meetings prior.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Curry, Administrative Supervisor
Charter Review Commission