



Minutes of
April 17, 2017

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

Members Absent: Greg Masters

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes Charter Review Commission (CRC) Meeting on February 20, 2018 no minutes for the March 20th meeting do to cancellation of the meeting.

- Motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 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 (there were a lot of emails; due to internal usage).

CRC Recommendations

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

Alice Hunt explained the CRC is now moving into the Town Hall process; there is still the ability to make any recommendations to the commission for discussion on the charter changes. She asked if there were any suggestions or changes. None were brought up for discussion.

Old Business

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

No discussion on the March 20, 2018 informational packet.

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Final Action Item(s)

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

No Discussion

New Business

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

- a. Review of the suggested agenda and flow of the Town Hall Meetings. The commissioners reviewed the document for continuity and any corrections which needed to be made. Mike Hickman stated there was a typo on page 6; make the correction from service to serve. (Document has been corrected). Lisa Jensen asked about the proposed sites of the Town Hall Meetings; is there a problem with the CRC not having a meeting set up on the east side of the county. Debi Curry stated the Auburndale site covered this location. Lisa Jensen was concerned the CRC could be open for criticism since there is a big population base. Mike Hickman stated there was a typo on page 7; make the correction from ever to every. (Document has been corrected). Alice Hunt explained after the public presentation, the public can make comments, with a 3 minute time limit. Drew Crawford stated if there is a public comment made requesting a change, in order for it to move forward a commissioner from the CRC needs to have interest in the public comment. If there is a public comment; we would poll the commissioners to see if there is any interest in moving the suggestion forward. The first Town Hall meeting may be the longest; because of the location. Bob English asked if the public objects to the extension of the terms; what then. Alice Hunt explained we all have the ability to discuss it; but she didn't see the commission removing or changing what we have already done. If an additional idea is brought up we might want to add something but not remove something. Drew Crawford explained he did suggest if there is an item brought up by the public it should have the support of a commissioner to move it to the next level. He explained the reasoning.
- b. Review of the draft letter and resolution CRC to BoCC. There was a question if the May 15th meeting is still scheduled; no the meeting has been cancelled. Alice Hunt explained the next meetings will be May 1st – Fort Meade 6:00 PM, May 14th, Lakeland City Commission Chamber 6:00 PM and May 24th Lake Myrtle Park – Multipurpose Room, 6:00 PM. After the town hall meetings we will reconvene on June 5th at 6:00 PM in room 407 to discuss the final actions. There was a discussion about page 11 and the saving, the question was an annual saving or is it over time. Bob English asked when in front of the BoCC can they refuse these ballots. Drew Crawford expressed his legal opinion is no, because of the way section 8.4 is written (Polk County Charter); the committee has been empowered to propose amendments to the people. The BoCC authority is ministerial; if they fail to do this the CRC might have a cause of action against the BoCC. He doesn't foresee this happening; the BoCC respects the process here and the integrity of this group. Michael Craig and Drew Crawford are meeting a week from this Thursday to discuss how it will look and what the process is at the BoCC level. There will be a contingency plan in place if there is any discord. Alice Hunt stated the CRC



will be a committee until the November election; we could be called back for a meeting. Drew Crawford explained at the June 5th CRC there will be a live edit process. We will have the letter up on the screen and we can edit it word for word throughout the meeting. Including the resolution and the text of the various charter amendments word for word. Once this is done we can do a reading of the resolution by title and adopt it that will be the final action. Patty Schmidt stated one of her justification for increasing the terms from 8 to 12 is how large our budget is in 8 years. She wanted staff to give them how much the county budget has increased from the last review period to this review period. She asked Lea Ann Thomas how big the budget is now. Lea Ann Thomas stated 1.3 billion. That is a big substantial increase also we might want to relate it to population as well. This is the justification she needs. Research will be done and sent out to the CRC prior to the Town Hall meetings.

CRC Member Comments

Alice Hunt, Chairperson

Alice Hunt asked each commissioner to take their books with them tonight and she explained each Town Hall Meeting will be set up a little different. The commission will be set up facing the audience with the microphones, books and the packet of information.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Curry, Administrative Supervisor
Charter Review Commission