



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Wyman Duggan, Chair
Mary O'Brien, Vice Chair

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Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2009
Council Chamber
1st Floor, City Hall

Attendance: Commissioners Wyman Duggan (Chair), Mary O'Brien (Vice Chair) – arrived 4:18 p.m., Ed Austin, Martha Barrett, Jim Catlett, Bill Catlin, Teresa Eichner, Robert Flowers, Sr., Beverly Garvin – arrived 4:06 p.m., Mechelle Herrington, Ali Korman – arrived 4:10 p.m., Jeanne Miller, Gary Oliveras, Curtis Thompson, Geoffrey Youngblood

Rick Campbell - Council Research Division; Kirk Sherman - Council Auditor's Office; Steve Rohan - Office of General Counsel; Carol Owens and Jessica Stephens - Legislative Services Division; City Council Members John Crescimbeni and Clay Yarborough; Skip Cramer – JCCI; Bobby Taylor; Benjamin Hamilton; Stanley Scott; Conrad Markle; James Minion; Justin Spiller; Henry Thomas; Willie Fred Williams; Amy Crane; Ed Iacobucci; Brian Klepper

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Commission Chair Wyman Duggan, who gave introductory remarks and explained the use of the equipment. He stated that this meeting was intended to hear from the public and not to have in-depth discussions.

The Chair announced the first speaker would be Mr. Skip Cramer, Executive Director of Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI).

Mr. Cramer gave a PowerPoint presentation relative to JCCI recommendations to the Commission, addressing prior JCCI studies. Recommendations and areas of concern included the need to develop a long-term community vision and define governmental core functions; strengthen TRUE Commission; have Waterways Commission oversee an all-county riverfront zoning overlay; strengthen Waterways Commission and revise makeup so it can function as a sub-regulatory board; the problem of effectively repealing an ordinance designed to assist cleanup efforts by failure to fund enforcement; review of whether elected officials serving in primarily administrative or quasi-judicial functions should be appointed rather than elected; and consider staggering terms for City Council, even with limited terms. Other issues included the erosion of home rule, unfunded mandates, and regional cooperation and collaboration. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Cramer agreed to make copies of studies and/or extracts available to Commission members.

Following Mr. Cramer's presentation, the Chair called upon those in the audience who submitted speaker's request cards. Among the speakers and comments were:

...Mr. Bobby Taylor – too easy to change zoning and need to allow more time in the process; too many independent authorities, particularly JAA; favors elected General Counsel; empower Charter Revision Commission to bring recommendations to voters

...Dr. Benjamin Hamilton – Ethics Commission should have authority to be effective; need police review board to advise Sheriff

...Mr. Stanley Scott – eliminate all at-large seats on City Council; provide community preference in contracts; City employees should live in Jacksonville; City vehicles should not be used after work hours

...Mr. Conrad Markle – review Ordinance Code provisions concerning Municipal Code Enforcement Board (Chapter 91) and Property Safety and Maintenance (Chapter 518)

...Mr. James Minion – review elections issues, such as those mentioned by Mr. Cramer; Elections Advisory Panel stands ready to assist the Commission

...Mr. Justin Spiller – favors an Office of Legislative Counsel for the City Council, as allowed in the Charter

...Mr. Henry Thomas – revisit the issues of staggered terms and fall elections; consider having certain positions, such as Sheriff, report to Mayor; investigate possibilities of a Green Zone Commission; address police review board and Ethics Commission; in response to a question, he explained the Green Zone concept of clustering businesses

...Mr. Willie Fred Williams – too much of our workforce lives in other counties; schools do not receive funding from JEA; review of elected vs. appointed Sheriff; consider police review board

...Ms. Amy Crane – consider cultural component and how it affects economic development, crime prevention, education, and downtown development; discussion followed concerning funding for culture and the arts, including Cultural Service grants and the Art in Public Places program; in response to a question, Mr. Rohan noted that funding for the arts is not currently addressed in the Charter

...Mr. Ed Iacobucci – School Board should be appointed and voluntary, and the Superintendent should not be paid more than the highest-paid teacher; increase term limits from eight to twelve years; comments were clarified and explained in response to questions; Mr. Rohan indicated that he will provide information at a later date concerning how Charter changes may be effected in general

...Mr. Brian Klepper – healthcare delivery and the use of on-site/near-site clinics to manage costs; discussion followed concerning how this system of health benefits operates and where it is being utilized

There being no more speakers, the Chair entertained discussion concerning meeting dates for the Commission. Various days and times were suggested, with it eventually being agreed that the Commission would meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursdays following City Council meetings. It was noted that the next Commission meeting will be held on July 16, 2009. The Chair reminded members that transcripts of the meetings would be available, in case anyone should miss a meeting.

The Chair stated his intent that the Commission meet as a committee-of-the-whole, rather than breaking into subcommittees, to consider issues. For now, the Commission will meet twice each month, subject to change depending on how the Commission's work progresses. He announced that the Commission would continue its listening process, with invitations to address the group being issued to various persons and entities, including the Mayor and independent authorities. After this, the Commission will determine which issues it will review.

Commissioner Youngblood requested that Commission meetings be opened with prayer in addition to the Pledge of Allegiance. Following discussion and informal vote of the Commission, it was agreed that a moment of silence would be observed at the beginning of meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes: Rick Campbell, Research Assistant
630-1679

Posted: 07.02.09
4:30 p.m.

cc: cityc@coj.net
Media Box
File Copy
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page

Tapes: Audio Tape 1 of 1 – LSD

Materials: JCCI Recommendations PowerPoint (paper copy and disc); speaker's request cards (11);
agenda; sign-in sheet - LSD