



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 12:06 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Trafford, Vice-chair Davidson, and committee members Coley, Fischer, Mulvihill, Obhof, and Sykes in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 11, 2013 committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

Chair Trafford invited the chairs of the subject matter committees to make brief presentations to inform the Coordinating Committee of their committees' priority issues and work plans.

Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee Chair Doug Cole reported that the committee has received background information from two former state tax commissioners and professionals with expertise in the area of state debt. Additionally, the committee has discussed bonding within the framework of the Ohio Constitution. Mr. Cole would like to invite speakers to discuss economic development at the September, October, and November meetings. Beginning first quarter of 2014, the committee would like to begin making recommendations. Mr. Cole would like to explore what other states are doing with taxation and their constitutions. Mr. Cole suggested that more advanced notice be given in terms of who will be testifying before each of the committees.

Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee Chair Fred Mills reported that the committee has prioritized redistricting and apportionment as well as term limits. The committee has heard and will continue to hear speakers on the subjects. He said Representative Vernon

Sykes prepared a proposal for redistricting that the committee will consider. Mr. Mills suggested that the Legislative Service Commission create a comparison document for redistricting proposals from previous General Assemblies. Mr. Mills also suggested that committee meetings be longer to allow more time for discussion.

Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee Chair Chad Readler reported that the committee has heard speakers on education and local government. Mr. Readler said he wants to spend the September meeting prioritizing the committee's issues.

Bill of Rights and Voting Committee Chair Richard Saphire reported that the committee has been focusing on Articles I, V, and XVII of the Ohio Constitution. He said Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass gave the committee a detailed history of the Constitution and the 1970's Ohio Constitutional Revision Commission. Mr. Saphire said he would like to form a framework for the committee going forward and to explore what other states have done. Mr. Saphire noted that some areas of voting administration are in a gray area, for example redistricting could be in the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee or it could be in the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Mr. Saphire suggested that joint committee hearings be held with the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee. Mr. Saphire also suggested that all the committees coordinate a unified approach to public outreach.

Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee Vice-chair Patrick Fischer reported that the committee has established judicial power, judicial elections, and criminal justice as priorities. He said the committee would like to compare and discuss other states' constitutions. Judge Fischer suggested that delayed enactment dates would be a way to take politics out of the process. Judge Fischer also recommended that issues related to modern technology should be addressed and the Ohio Constitution should be adapted for a changing and evolving environment.

Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee Chair Dennis Mulvihill reported that the committee has been discussing the initiative and referendum process and direct representation. He said the committee has heard testimony from the Ohio Secretary of State's office, the Ohio Attorney General's office, and Mr. Steinglass, and it plans to hear public testimony from people who have been involved in an initiative or referendum campaign.

Mr. Mulvihill suggested that committees should be scheduled more time to meet and discuss issues. Vice-chair Davidson agreed. Mr. Mulvihill noted that none of the committees reported that they have heard any public testimony. Judge Fischer reiterated that committees should schedule hearings outside of Columbus to engage the public.

Judge Fischer moved to assign the issue of voting administration to the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee. Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Mulvihill moved to make privacy rights a priority for the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to discuss. Judge Fischer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the September 12, 2013 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen M. Trafford
Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson
Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair