



## OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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### MINUTES OF THE

### JOINT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE AND LIAISONS WITH PUBLIC OFFICES COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

#### **Call to Order:**

Roger Beckett, Chair of the Public Education and Information Committee, called the joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaison with Public Offices Committee to order at 9:16 a.m.

#### **Members Present:**

A quorum was present with committee members Beckett, Macon, Curtin, Peterson, Readler, Sapphire, and Sawyer of the Public Education and Information Committee in attendance and committee members Asher, Taft, Bell, Mills, and Skindell of the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee in attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the July 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

#### **Topics Discussed:**

##### *Communication Plan*

Communication Director Shaunte Russell presented a draft communications plan for the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission. Following the presentation a committee member noted the importance of educational outreach and expressed a need for the outreach to start sooner than outlined in the draft plan. Another inquired of Ms. Russell whether she had any suggestions on who the Committee should reach out to in order to find the Commission's target audience.

Discussion then moved to developing a plan for when committee recommendations are presented to the full Commission. Chair Beckett presented the idea of two phases of communication: (1) recommendations from the committee to the full Commission and (2) recommendations from the full Commission to the General Assembly. Discussion surrounding the Commission's role in promoting recommendations to the General Assembly ensued. During the discussion committee members made various points and raised several questions, including the following:

- The communication plan should take into consideration that there will be different viewpoints between committee members as to the recommendations.
- Should there be communications for proposals still in committee that have not yet been voted out for consideration by the full Commission?
- Should the chair of the committee bringing forward the recommendation be the advocate for the recommendation from the committee?
- Should the Commission do more to inform members of the General Assembly of the Commission's considerations?
- Should there be a quarterly report from the Executive Director of the Commission to the members of the Commission and to the members of the General Assembly?
- Should someone verbally update members of the General Assembly on the work of the Commission and its committees?

Discussion then moved to the issue of whether individual Commission members should receive inquiries from members of the news media. During discussion of this issue, committee members made various points and raised several questions, including the following:

- Should inquiries be handled by the Communications Director or the member of the Commission who received the inquiry?
- Should inquiries regarding the process used by the full Commission or a particular committee be handled by the Communications Director or should more substantive questions about a member's thoughts or opinions about an issue be handled by the member individually?
- A committee member noted that it might be difficult for the Communications Director to know what the position might be of each individual member regarding matters under consideration by the Commission.
- It was suggested that inquiries relating to a specific committee's process might be best handled by the chair of the committee and that any inquiry should be forwarded to that chair for the purposed of answering the inquiry.

### **Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

### **Attachments:**

- Notice
- Agenda
- Roll call sheet
- Draft communications plan

**Approval:**

The minutes of the September 11, 2014 joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee were approved at the January 15, 2015 joint meeting of the committees.

Public Education and Information  
Committee

Liaison with Public Offices Committee

*/s/ Herb Asher*  
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Herb Asher, Vice-Chair

*/s/ Robert A. Taft*  
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Robert A. Taft, Vice-Chair