



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Roger Beckett of the Public Education and Information Committee, called the joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee to order at 9:12 a.m.

Members Present:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 13, 2014 and May 8, 2014 joint meetings of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

The items outlined in the agenda were brought forward and were discussed by the joint committee.

Steven C. Hollon, executive director, provided a brief update on the communications director position, stating that nine candidates were interviewed and that Ms. Shaunte Russell will be recommended to the full Commission at its meeting in the afternoon.

Chair Beckett then turned to a discussion of potential communication projects for the committee. Committee member Karla Bell suggested that an emphasis on holding regular public meetings should be explored. Ms. Bell noted that these types of meetings would create opportunities throughout the state for public input and participation.

Chair Beckett then raised the subject of commission rule changes. Vice-chair Macon requested that committee minutes be expanded in order to allow Commission members to view more detail of each committee's work so that members may better understand what has transpired. Chair Beckett noted that committee chairs currently create committee reports after each meeting; however, there is no consistency in what committee chairs are including in those reports. Ms. Bell added that an overview of committee actions to date with the inclusion of possible future actions would be helpful to Commission members. Representative Ron Amstutz stated that soliciting public input should be encouraged by committees working with focus groups in order to develop proactive input, rather than the input being a passive action. Ms. Bell added that the media should be well-informed of the Commission's progress.

Committee member Fred Mills inquired as to the wording in section 12.7 of the proposed amendments to the Commission rules. He noted that the last line, rather than stating "the Committee may waive readings for non-controversial items," should state "the Committee may waive considerations for non-controversial items." Mr. Sapphire asked how "considerations" would be defined, and whether the considerations are of the proposed idea or relate to exact language that the committee would be seeking to recommend to the full Commission. Mr. Sapphire then noted that it might not be advantageous or productive for the exact language to have three considerations. Committee member Herb Asher added that section 12.7 reads that discussions surrounding the temporary language with options for revisions are encouraged throughout. Senator Tom Sawyer asked whether the procedures of the Commission are comparable to the ballot board. Ms. Bell noted that exact language would be necessary at that point, while Representative Mike Curtin stated that the General Assembly would be the step in between the Commission and the ballot board. Chair Beckett then stated that section 12.7 was intentionally left vague to allow flux between committees and their chairs.

Ms. Bell motioned to change "readings" to "considerations," the motion was seconded by Rep. Amstutz, and was subsequently approved by the joint committee without objection.

Rep. Amstutz then asked about the choice of the word "discussion" in section 12.7 and whether it should state "the Subject Matter Committee shall not vote on a proposed recommendation to the Commission unless the proposal was on the agenda for consideration at two previous meetings," rather than stating the proposal should be on the agenda for discussion at two previous meetings. Mr. Mills motioned to change "discussion" to "consideration," the motion was seconded by Ms. Bell, and was subsequently approved by the joint committee without objection.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the July 10, 2014 joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee were approved at the September 11, 2014 joint meeting of the committees.

Public Education and Information
Committee

Liaisons with Public Offices Committee

/s/ Roger L. Beckett
Roger L. Beckett, Chair

/s/ Herb Asher
Herb Asher, Chair

Larry L. Macon, Vice-chair

/s/ Robert A. Taft
Robert A. Taft, Vice-chair