

Co-Chair
Charleta B. Tavares
Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District



Co-Chair
Rep. Ron Amstutz
Speaker Pro Tempore
1st House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

Call to Order:

Speaker Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission ("Commission") to order at 9:50 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Commission members Batchelder, Abaray, Amstutz, Asher, Beckett, Bell, Clyde, Cole, Coley, Curtin, Davidson, Fischer, Gilbert, Jacobson, Mills, Mulvihill, Peterson, Readler, Sapphire, Taft, Talley, and Trafford in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

Coordinating Committee

Speaker Batchelder recognized Kathleen Trafford, chair of the Coordinating Committee, for a report on the activities of the committee. Ms. Trafford reported the Committee heard a presentation by Morgan Cheek, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law student intern, on a timeline for proposed constitutional amendments. The presentation was helpful and informative, especially for the public members. At an appropriate time, that information will be made available to all commission members. The committee also took up a review of the biennial report. Members reviewed the draft before the meeting and commended staff for doing an excellent job for putting the report together. It contains much helpful information and is in an easy to read format. Preparing the report was a particularly challenging task because staff wasn't here for most of the biennium and had to dig back through archives to put together the report. The report will be helpful to posterity. The Coordinating Committee voted to pass the report on to the Commission. The motion was made asking the Commission to approve the report. Rep. Amstutz seconded. The vote was taken and the Commission unanimously approved the report.

Bill of Rights and Voting Committee

Speaker Batchelder recognized Richard Sapphire, Chair of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee. Prof. Sapphire reported the committee will meet immediately following this meeting. On the agenda for the meeting is a first reading of three reports and recommendations for

provisions of Article I, and a presentation on Article V, Section VI, by Michael Kirkman, Director of Disability Rights Ohio.

Constitutional Revisions and Updating Committee

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dennis Mulvihill, Chair of the Constitutional Revisions and Updating Committee. Mr. Mulvihill indicated there was no committee report at this time.

Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee

Speaker Batchelder recognized Fred Mills, Chair of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Mr. Mills indicated his committee will be meeting at 12:45 p.m. to hear briefings on the status of redistricting. The committee also is acquainting itself with Senate Joint Resolution 9 (SJR9), a pending resolution that would create a salary commission to determine pay raises for elected officials. The committee also will hear a presentation from Prof. Steinglass as to other issues that committee will be reviewing in the future.

Executive Director Report

Speaker Batchelder recognized Steven Hollon, the Executive Director of the Commission for an update. Mr. Hollon reported on the activities of the staff over the last month, stating that the bulk of staff's work has been finishing the biennial report, and expressing his appreciation for the Commission's approval of the report. He stated that the rest of his comments will be presented in correspondence to commission members, letting everyone know what is going on with the Commission. He expressed his appreciation to the staff for their outstanding effort, including the continued assistance from Prof. Steve Steinglass.

Additional Comments/Discussion/Remarks

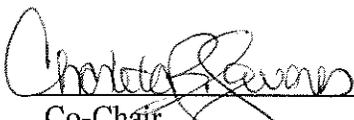
Speaker Batchelder thanked all the Commission members for their service during his time as Co-Chair. Jo Ann Davidson, speaking for the group, thanked Speaker Batchelder for his leadership of the Commission. Speaker Batchelder thanked the Commission for their praise, indicating that his future plans included teaching part time at the Ray Bliss Institute at the University of Akron.

Adjournment:

With no further business, the Commission adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting of the Commission were approved at the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Commission.



Co-Chair
Sen. Charleta B. Tavares
Assistant Minority Leader