

Co-Chair
Vernon Sykes, Representative
34th House District



Co-Chair
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES May 9, 2013

Speaker Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 2:04pm and asked staff to call the roll. The following members were present:

Janet Gilligan Abaray	Edward Gilbert	Rep. Vernon Sykes
Rep. Ron Amstutz	Rep. Matt Huffman	Robert A. Taft
Herb Asher	Charles Kurfess	Richard S. Walinski
Speaker William G. Batchelder	Larry L. Macon	
Roger L. Beckett	Dennis P. Mulvihill	
Paula Brooks	Rep. Dennis Murray	
Rep. Kathleen Clyde	Sen. Larry Obhof	
Douglas Cole	Chad A. Readler	
Jo Ann Davidson	Richard B. Sapphire	
Sen. Keith Faber	Sen. Michael Skindell	

Staff noted that communication regarding anticipated absences had been received from Senator Cafaro, Judge Fischer, Justice French, Fred Mills, Senator Tavares and Kathleen Trafford by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting.

Speaker Batchelder asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the April 11, 2013 meeting. Without objection the minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Speaker Batchelder update the members of the Commission on the issue of email addresses for the public members. The Co-Chairs staff are working with LIS on this issue and should have additional updates for the June meeting.

Dean Steinglass updated the Commission on the work he has completed as determined by his contract. He pointed out that he was trying to serve as a resource to the various committees.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Richard Walinski for a report of the Organization and Administration Standing Committee. The committee recommended that the Commission update the interim rules to reflect the

Senate Members

Keith Faber, President
Chris Widener, President
Pro Tempore
Larry Obhof, Majority
Whip
Charleta B. Tavares
Michael J. Skindell
Capri S. Cafaro

House Members

Matt Huffman, Speaker
Pro Tempore
Ron Amstutz
Kathleen Clyde
Dennis Murray

Public Members

Janet Abaray
Herb Asher
Roger L. Beckett
Karla L. Bell
Paula Brooks
Douglas R. Cole
JoAnn Davidson
Patrick F. Fischer
Judith L. French
Edward L. Gilbert
Charles F. Kurfess
Larry L. Macon
Frederick E. Mills
Dennis P. Mulvihill
Chad A. Readler
Joseph P. Rugola
Richard R. Sapphire
Bob Taft
Kathleen M. Trafford
Richard S. Walinski

decision made at the April meeting to reduce the number of subject matter committees from eight to six. Without objection the recommendation was adopted.

The committee further suggested that the Commission hire at least three staffers: an Operations Manager, Counsel to the Commission and a Fiscal Officer (if needed). The committee will be meeting again on May 30th with the intention of drafting job descriptions for each of these positions and designating job responsibilities. The committee had also discussed having a complete record of the debate and discussion of the Commission and its committees. There are several options and the committee intends to discuss these options and come up with a recommendation for the Commission to consider.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Roger Beckett for an update from the Public Education and Information Standing Committee. The committee met earlier in the morning and discussed at length the Commission website and the changes that will need to be made to update and maintain the website. Mr. Beckett indicated that he will be scheduling a meeting with LIS to discuss the services and what additional services they can provide to the Commission. The committee supports the Co-Chairs intention to invite the constitutional officers to address the entire Commission at future meetings.

The Commission discussed how the subject matter committees would handle inviting individuals and groups to present to the committees, but no official action was taken.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Speaker Davidson who indicated, on behalf of Chairwoman Trafford, that the Coordinating Committee would be meeting before the June meeting to begin its work.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Janet Abaray for a report from the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Subject Matter Committee. Ms. Abaray indicated that the committee had an organizational meeting that morning and asked if funds will be made available for the committees to purchase resources and other items.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dennis Mulvihill for a report of the Constitutional Revisions and Updating Subject Matter Committee. Mr. Mulvihill indicated that the committee met earlier that morning and discussed which groups should be invited to give the committee members a better understanding of the topics assigned to the committee. The committee is planning to gather information from the Ballot Board and the Secretary of State's office. The committee also asked if there would be a process moving forward on inviting groups/individuals to present to the various committees.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Richard Saphire for a report from the Bill of Rights & Voting Subject Matter Committee. Mr. Saphire informed the Commission that the committee had met earlier that day and discussed the importance of research on the judicial interpretations of the

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provisions assigned to the committee. The committee also asked if there would be a uniform procedure for getting information to and from the subject matter committees.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Douglas Cole for a report of the Finance, Taxation & Economic Development Subject Matter Committee. The committee would like to invite various groups to discuss issues of bonding and finance with the committee to so it can ask questions and get different viewpoints on these issues.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Herb Asher, who asked how the Commission sees the committee he chairs, Liaisons with Public Offices Committee, working and whether or not there is overlap with other committees. It was agreed that there may be some overlap and that the Chairs of the Standing Committees should discuss any overlapping issues. Mr. Asher also announced that the Liaisons with Public Offices Standing Committee will meet prior to the June meeting.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dean Steinglass for his comments on the questions the committee Chairs have been asking. Mr. Steinglass indicated that the Chairs should use the Co-Chairs staff to coordinate the timing of meetings until the Commission hires permanent staff. He suggested that the committees might initially work at inviting groups to educate and provide background information to the committee members on the assigned topics before invitations are extended to various stakeholders. Once that has occurred, the stakeholders could be invited, and the committees could also consider having hearings around the state.

Commissioner Brooks commented that the Commission should have meetings in all parts of the state, not just the population centers.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Chad Readler for a report from the Education, Public Institutions, & Miscellaneous and Local Government Committee. Mr. Readler informed the Commission that the committee had an organizational meeting earlier in the day and discussed the best way to move forward. The committee is considering having presentations made on each topic and would like to start that process at the next meeting in June.

Several members of the Commission agreed that committees should start inviting various groups to make presentations at their June meetings. Speaker Batchelder indicated that the staff would be able to assist with this task.

There was continued discussion of how the subject matter committees should be proceeding and it was suggested that the committees should be objective in deciding who to invite to their meetings. Several members indicated that the committees should be able to run as they see fit as

long as they follow the Commission rules and any other applicable laws. The intended purpose of the fact finding sessions is to invite experts address the committees and provide background information. Advocacy groups will be invited and encouraged to participate at the appropriate time.

Ms. Abaray asked the Co-Chairs about the monetary resources available to the Commission. The staff indicated that the Commission has around \$40,000 left in the budget and the exact figure could be obtained from LSC.

The Commission discussed the public input process and suggestions were made to have meetings around Ohio, to have full Commission meetings open to the public and to encourage participation by interested organizations and individuals.

Co-Chair Sykes asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. Seeing none, the Commission was adjourned.

Speaker William Batchelder
Co-Chair

Rep. Vernon Sykes
Co-Chair