



## OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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### Senate Members

Larry Obhof, Majority  
Whip

Bill Coley

Bob Peterson

Michael J. Skindell

Tom Sawyer

### House Members

Matt Huffman, Speaker  
Pro Tempore

Ron Amstutz

Kathleen Clyde

Michael Curtin

Vernon Sykes

July 10, 2014

Speaker Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 1:48pm and asked staff to call the roll. The following members were present:

Janet Gilligan Abaray

Rep. Ron Amstutz

Speaker Batchelder

Karla Bell

Paula Brooks

Rep. Curtin

Speaker Jo Ann Davidson

Judge Patrick Fischer

Jeff Jacobson

Speaker Charles Kurfess

Dr. Larry Macon

Fred Mills

Dennis Mulvihill

Sen. Larry Obhof

Sen. Bob Peterson

Richard Saphire

Sen. Tom Sawyer

Rep. Sykes

Sen. Tavares

Mark Wagone

### Public Members

Janet Abaray

Herb Asher

Roger L. Beckett

Karla L. Bell

Paula Brooks

Douglas R. Cole

JoAnn Davidson

Patrick F. Fischer

Edward L. Gilbert

Jeff Jacobson

Charles F. Kurfess

Larry L. Macon

Frederick E. Mills

Dennis P. Mulvihill

Chad A. Readler

Richard R. Saphire

Bob Taft

Pierrette Talley

Kathleen M. Trafford

Mark Wagoner

Staff noted that communication regarding anticipated absences had been received from Rep. Huffman, Senator Coley, Dr. Asher, Rep. Clyde, Governor Taft, Kathleen Trafford, and Petee Talley prior to the meeting.

Speaker Batchelder asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the June meeting. The minutes of the meeting were approved without objection.

Speaker Batchelder noted the reports from the committees were in the members folders. Without objection, the written reports of the committees were accepted.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Mark Wagoner for a report of the Organization and Administration Committee. Mr. Wagoner brought forth a recommendation that the Commission hire Shaunte Russell as the Communications Director to the Commission and that the Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. Russell within the confines of the Commission's appropriation. Mr. Wagoner moved that the Commission hire Shaunte Russell for the position of Communications Director and Senator Sawyer seconded the motion. Speaker Batchelder asked the staff to call the roll and with a vote of 22-0, Shaunte Russell was selected as the Communications Director for the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission.

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Speaker Batchelder recognized Mark Wagoner for an additional recommendation. Mr. Wagoner presented a recommendation that the Commission hire Shari O'Neill as the Counsel to the Commission and that the Co-Chairs negotiate the terms of compensation for Ms. O'Neill within the confines of the Commission's appropriation. Mr. Wagoner moved that the Commission hire Shari O'Neill and Speaker Davidson seconded the motion. Speaker Batchelder asked the staff to call the roll and with a vote of 22-0, Shari O'Neill was selected as Counsel to the Commission for the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Speaker JoAnn Davidson, Vice Chair of the Coordinating Committee. Speaker Davidson presented a recommendation to move Art. V sections 8 and 9 to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. With a second to the motion, and without objection, the motion was agreed to and Art. V sections 8 and 9 are now assigned to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Fred Mills, Chair of the Legislative Branch & Executive Branch Committee. Mr. Mills reported to the Commission on the committee's discussions regarding redistricting and term limits.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Richard Saphire, Chair of the Bill of Rights & Voting Committee. Mr. Saphire stated that the committee was working through the Road Map that they had adopted last year.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dennis Mulvihill, Chair of the Constitutional Revisions and Updating Committee and indicated that the committee may have recommendations in the next few months. The committee is currently focused on ways to potentially make an initiated law more accessible and desirable verses a constitutional amendment.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Steven Hollon, the Executive Director of the Commission for an update.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dean Steinglass for an update on his work for the Commission.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Richard Saphire for a question. Mr. Saphire commented about gender neutral wording in sections of the constitution and asked if the Commission would be appointing an ad-hoc committee to review the Constitution to identify instances where gender neutral language would be appropriate.

Dean Steinglass responded that a group has been appointed, but has not yet met, to look at obsolete amendments and/or objectionable wording. The issue of gender neutral wording has not come up in casual conversations.

Mr. Saphire asked if perhaps it would be appropriate for an ad-hoc body to look specifically at gender language throughout the constitution.

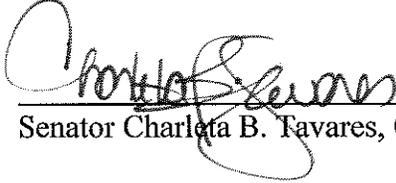
Speaker Davidson commented that with the Ohio Revised Code, for example, whenever a section of the Code comes up for an amendment LSC automatically changes gender specific language to gender neutral language. It seems a good policy to follow and perhaps the OCMC subject matter committees could do the same when submitting recommendations for revisions to the constitution.

Dean Steinglass commented that another option might be the single amendment rule which would amend all sections of the constitution where gender specific language is used.

Speaker Batchelder asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. Seeing none, the Commission adjourned at 2:06.



Speaker William G. Batchelder, Co-Chair



Senator Charleta B. Favares, Co-Chair