

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



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

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Call to Order:

Senator Tavares called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission ("Commission") to order at 1:40 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Commission members Tavares, Abaray, Beckett, Bell, Brooks, Clyde, Cole, Coley, Curtin, Davidson, Fischer, Gilbert, Huffman, Macon, Mills, Obhof, Peterson, Readler, Saphire, Sawyer, Skindell, Sykes, Taft, and Wagoner in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the July 10, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved with correction to the title of one of the new employees and the addition of missing language regarding a question on whether the Commission should strive for gender neutral language in its work product.

Committee Reports:

Senator Tavares noted the reports from the committees were in the members' folders. The report of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee was inadvertently left out of the packet. With the addition of this report the written reports of the committees were accepted.

Senator Tavares noted that Commission staff is working diligently to ensure that records of the work of the Commission and its committees is accurate and that the most comprehensive version possible is posted to the website for public access.

Organization and Administration Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Mark Wagoner for a report of the Organization and Administration Committee. Mr. Wagoner reported on the status of the Commission office space, purchase of furniture, and staffing. He introduced Morgan Cheek and Dare Heisterman, two externs from the Legislation Clinic at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He also noted the Commission has entered into a new one-year contract with Steve Steinglass to continue his services as Senior Policy Advisor.

Mr. Wagoner presented the proposed Rules of Procedure and Conduct for the Commission. He noted the following items for clarification: the Coordinating Committee will serve as an editorial board reviewing proposed recommendations and Commission reports; Commission meetings *shall* be recorded, committee meetings will be recorded at the discretion of the chair and/or vice-chair.

Mr. Wagoner moved to adopt the proposed Rules of Procedure and Conduct with changes to 12.2(A)(B)(C). Sen. Sawyer seconded the motion.

Rep. Sykes inquired what happens once a proposal reaches the Commission co-chairs – is it up to them to decide if the proposal goes before the full Commission?

Rep. Huffman asked if 10.3(B) which states 22 members are required for an affirmative vote was accurate or if this should be a simple majority, which would be 17 members. Mr. Wagoner responded that 22 members are required for an affirmative vote.

Prof. Sapphire asked about the possibility of changes to a proposal after it leaves the subject matter committee. Mr. Wagoner replied that the Coordinating Committee has the opportunity to send it back to the subject matter committee. However, when a proposal is forwarded to the Commission co-chairs from the Coordinating Committee it is expected to be in final form ready for voting.

A vote was taken by roll-call. The proposed Rules of Procedure and Conduct with changes to 12.2(A)(B)(C) were adopted.

Public Education and Information Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Roger Beckett, Chair of the Public Education and Information Committee. Mr. Beckett provided an update on the work of the committee and the development of a draft communications plan.

Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Chad Readler, Chair of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee. Mr. Readler reported the committee is nearing the end of consideration of competing proposals regarding the “thorough and efficient” language in Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution.

Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Karla Bell, Vice-Chair of the Finance, Taxation, and Economic Development Committee. Ms. Bell reported the committee heard a presentation from Jon Honeck, Director of Public Policy at The Center for Community Solutions, on tax expenditures and increasing the transparency and accountability of tax practices within the Ohio Constitution.

Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Janet Abaray, Chair of the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee. Ms. Abaray reported the committee heard from two presenters, Jo Ellen Cline, Government Relations Counsel at the Supreme Court of Ohio, and William Weisenberg, Senior Policy Advisor for the Ohio State Bar Association, on the topics of courts of conciliation, Supreme Court commissions, and methods of judicial selection in other states. The committee also discussed different proposals for a judicial appointment process and hopes to identify the best two proposals soon. The committee plans to invite Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to the next meeting.

Bill of Rights and Voting Committee

Senator Tavares recognized Richard Saphire, Chair of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee. Prof. Saphire reported the committee has been discussing provisions found in Article I and Article V of the Ohio Constitution.

Executive Director Report

Senator Tavares recognized Steven Hollon, the Executive Director of the Commission for an update. Mr. Hollon reported on work of the staff and externs and concurred with the earlier report by Mr. Wagoner on the Organization and Administration Committee.

Additional Comments/Discussion/Remarks

Senator Tavares recognized Richard Saphire for a comment. Prof. Saphire extended his compliments to the Commission staff on how quickly they are getting up to speed on the work of the Commission.

Adjournment:

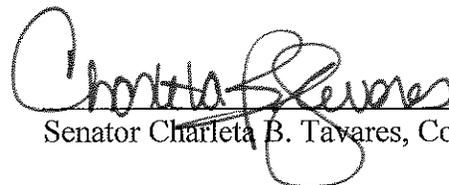
With no further business, the Commission adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting of the Commission were approved at the November 13, 2014 meeting of the committee.

Excused Absence

Speaker William G. Batchelder, Co-Chair



Senator Charleta B. Tavares, Co-Chair