

The Ohio Senate
Tom Niehaus, President
Eric Kearney, Minority Leader



*The Ohio House of
Representatives*
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
Armond Budish, Minority Leader

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES February 14, 2013

Speaker William Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 2:10pm and asked staff to call the roll. The following members were present:

Janet Gilligan Abaray
Rep. Amstutz
Herb Asher
Speaker Batchelder
Roger L. Beckett
Karla L. Bell
Paula Brooks
Douglas Cole
Rep. Kathleen Clyde
Jo Ann Davidson

Patrick F. Fischer
Judith L. French
Rep. Matt Huffman
Charles F. Kurfess
Larry L. Macon
Frederick E. Mills
Dennis P. Mulvihill
Rep. Murray
Sen. Larry Obhof
Chad A. Readler

Joseph P. Rugola
Richard B. Saphire
Sen. Michael Skindell
Rep. Vernon Sykes
Robert A. Taft
Sen. Charleta B. Tavares
Kathleen M. Trafford
Richard S. Walinski

Staff noted that communication regarding anticipated absences had been received from Sen. Cafaro and Edward Gilbert by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting. Speaker Batchelder noted the resignation of Senator Jones from the Commission and the appointment of President Keith Faber. The Senate also informed the Commission that former Senator Wagoner had been replaced on the Commission by Senator Chris Widener.

Speaker Batchelder asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the September 13, 2012. Senator Tavares asked for the initial B to be added to her name. Sen. Skindell moved that the minutes be adopted as amended; the motion was seconded and approved without objection.

Speaker Batchelder noted that the next item on the agenda was the report from the Staffing and Budget group. Speaker Kurfess and Commissioner Brooks gave their report to the Commission. Speaker Kurfess motioned that the recommendations of the Staffing and Budget group be adopted, Commissioner Brooks seconded; the motion was approved without objection. The Commission had further discussions on other items from the Staffing and Budget group.

Speaker Batchelder asked the Committee Structure and Topics group to give their report to the Commission. Judge Fischer and Senator Skindell gave an updated report from the document

supplied to the Commissioners with numerous changes. The group will come back with an additional report at the next meeting with specific recommendations on committee structure for the Commission to adopt.

Co-Chair Sykes asked the Public Information and Guidance group to give their report to the Commission. Mr. Readler and Mr. Rugola gave their report to the Commission. Ms. Abaray offered an amendment to the recommendations that there be a central place for public input. Senator Obhof motioned to accept the recommendations as amended, Senator Skindell seconded the motion; the motion was approved without objection.

Co-Chair Sykes asked the Education and Ethics group to give their report to the Commission. Mr. Walinski and Dr. Macon gave their report and discussed incorporating the comments and discussion for the meeting into their recommendations. They will bring new recommendations to the March meeting.

Senator Skindell asked that it be noted in the minutes that the Commission members had presentations from the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

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