Co-Chair Vernon Sykes, Representative 34th House District



Co-ChairWilliam G. Batchelder, Speaker 69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

Public Education and Information Committee Roger Beckett, Chair Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Chairman Beckett called the meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee to order at 3:38 p.m. A quorum was present, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

The committee was presented with testimony from Rep. Murray regarding the commission's hearing locations. The consensus of the committee was that hearings are to be held at the Statehouse, with regional panels of the commission being appointed to hear input and inform the public about the commission's work. Commissioner Saphire suggested that commission members meet with editorial boards and other groups deemed appropriate, either separately or in conjunction with input hearings, all of which the committee agreed to in a motion.

The committee also heard from Rep. Murray on the subject of how the commission is to take and receive testimony from the public. The committee agreed to a motion that testimony can be taken serially or as part of a panel, with the chairs encouraging that written testimony be provided. The motion included providing reasonable opportunity to question witnesses and, at the suggestion of Commissioner Readler, setting reasonable time limits of testimony to be determined by the committee chairs.

After the commissioners reviewed drafts of the co-chairs' public service announcement, open letter to Ohio citizens, and sample newsletter language, they discussed various methods of distributing such information to the public. Sen. Tavares stressed that the commission should use as many mediums to interact with the public as possible. Catherine Turcer, from Common Cause Ohio, and Marcus Gould each briefly testified on the best way to reach out to Ohioans from their viewpoints.

Chairman Beckett provided an update on the commission website, saying that because the commission does not yet have staff, he would work with LIS to make the committee's suggested changes on the website before then.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

ROGER BECKETT - CHAIR

LARRY MACON -- VICE CHAIR