



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE

JOINT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE AND LIAISONS WITH PUBLIC OFFICES COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

Call to Order:

Roger Beckett, Chair of the Public Education and Information Committee, called the joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Beckett and committee member Curtin of the Public Education and Information Committee were in attendance, and committee member Manning of the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee was in attendance.

Presentation:

“Website Update”

*Shaunte Russell
Director of Communications
Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission*

Chair Beckett acknowledged Director of Communications Shaunte Russell, who presented to the committee on the unveiling of the redesigned Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission website, located at ocmc.ohio.gov. Ms. Russell said the website is newly launched, and features new graphics and new photos. She said that circulating adopted reports and recommendations will be added to the site soon.

Chair Beckett asked whether the committee wants people to engage in discussion about planned actions around the time that recommendations are made. The Commission’s Rules of Procedure and Conduct require a process in which reports and recommendations have multiple readings before the committees and the Commission. Chair Beckett asked whether that section of the

website could show those recommendations that are being considered by section of the constitution or by topic, in order to be sure the Commission is getting the word out. Ms. Russell answered that staff is working on this, and that she expects the website will indicate where a report and recommendation is in the process, for example whether it has had a first reading or a second reading before the committee or Commission. She indicated the information about the reports and recommendations will continue to be located within the agenda items on the committee page, as well as there being a separate location on the website.

Rep. Curtin complimented Ms. Russell, indicating the website is a major upgrade, and that the site looks good. He said the website is likely to be a work in progress for years to come, as it is updated with events that transpire in the committees and the Commission. He asked whether any thought was given to establishing a “search” function that would allow people interested in a particular subject to find everything related to that topic. Ms. Russell answered that she will bring this idea to Legislative Information Systems that has been assisting with the site design, and would ask how long it would take to include a “search” function. Ms. Russell concluded her remarks by indicating that the Commission now has color brochures that are available for Commission members to distribute.

New Business:

Chair Beckett then moved on to new business, indicating that one topic he would like the committee to engage in would be how the Commission should handle recommendations received from the public in terms of constitutional changes. Chair Beckett said the rules are silent on that question, and the Organization and Administration Committee has asked the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee to talk about what procedures and approaches could be adopted regarding these types of requests. He said it has been suggested that any recommendations received ought to be forwarded to the respective subject matter committee, and that a proposal should be given to all members of that committee, so it is not just sitting with the chair.

Chair Beckett continued saying the Commission does not want to imply that it is not interested in public input, but the Commission also wants to make sure it is not fast-tracking proposals that should first go to a subject matter committee. Chair Beckett asked if there were any thoughts by the committee members on this question.

There being no questions, Chair Beckett indicated that the chairs of the four standing committees would be getting together and talking through that issue, and that the question will go to the Organization and Administration Committee to figure this out and talk further at another meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Attachments:

- Notice
- Agenda
- Roll call sheet

Approval:

The minutes of the May 14, 2015 joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaisons with Public Offices Committee were approved at the _____ joint meeting of the committees.

Public Education and Information
Committee

Liaison with Public Offices Committee

Roger L. Beckett, Chair

Herb Asher, Chair

Larry L. Macon, Vice-chair

Robert A. Taft, Vice-chair