



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
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Charter Review
Commission
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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joe Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2010.

Armando Grundy moved that the May 12, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

2. General comments by members.

The chair recognized all commission members wishing to make comments. Extensive comments were made by several members of the commission.

Rob Brinkman moved that the chair write a letter to the Brevard County Charter Review Commission clarifying the current status of the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to.

3. Legal Counsel

Legal counsel Sarah Bleakley reviewed for the commission the requirements for the public hearings. She then made a presentation with regard to the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers. Attorney Bleakley compared the two proposals the commission received from the League of Cities to the proposal she prepared for the commission. She reviewed the law and expressed her concern with regard to proposed ballot language.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the chair recognized Alachua County League of Cities President Larry Travis, High Springs City Manager Jim Drumm, Town of Micanopy Mayor Richard Shutterly, and League of Cities representative Beth Rawlins.

4. Public Hearing

The Charter of Alachua County requires the CRC to hold three public hearings. The chair called the public hearing to order and recognized fourteen citizens wishing to address the commission. There being no further citizens wishing to address the commission, the Chair closed the public hearing.

5. Other Business

Jim Stringfellow moved to reconsider the proposal for county commissioners to be elected on a single member basis.

After discussion, the motion to reconsider was agreed to. 8 Yes 7 No

Therefore, the motion was placed back before the commission as follows:

Refer to the CRC attorney for review the following question: Shall the five members of the board of county commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, be elected from single-member districts by electors residing in each of those districts only, with no more than three districts extending to the county line?

After extensive discussion, the motion was agreed to. 8 Yes 7 No

Armando Grundy moved that the revised proposed language submitted by the League of Cities with regard to the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers be substituted for the language proposed by the CRC counsel.

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. 5 Yes 10 No

AuBroncee Martin moved to for the CRC to engage an expert on single member districts to make a presentation to the commission regarding the pros and cons of single member districts and the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

Rob Brinkman moved to amend the motion by adding that the CRC counsel provide the commission her legal opinion as to whether the law allows the charter to provide instructions to the board of county commissioners with regard to how they shall draw their districts (e.g. "Three and only three districts shall extend to the county line").

After discussion the amendment was agreed to.

After discussion the motion as amended was agreed to.

6. Adjournment

Armando Grundy moved to adjourn. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, announced the date of the next meeting, and without objection adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.