

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2015
DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
VOLUSIA ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Volusia Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida. Roll call was conducted by Administrative Aide Christine Beccaris. The following members were present: Hyatt Brown, Frank Bruno Jr., Frank Darden, Patricia Drago, Ambassador Stanley Escudero, Dr. Phillip Fleuchaus, David Haas, Peter Heebner, Patricia Northey, Derek Triplett, Mark Watts, and Lisa Ford Williams. Also present were County Manager James Dinneen, County Attorney Dan Eckert, Dona DeMarsh Butler, Tammy Bong, George Recktenwald, Mary Anne Connors, Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Member, and county support staff: Corry Brown, Brittany Scott, John Duckworth, and approximately 22 members of the public. Chair Brown requested that both Dr. Bailey and Mr. Ritchey be marked as excused due to illness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Escudero made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2015 meeting of the Charter Review Commission, as well as the minutes of the listening sessions of September 15, 2015; September 16, 2015; September 21, 2015; September 23, 2015; and September 29, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bruno. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Brown opened the floor to public participation noting that each speaker is allotted three minutes to speak.

John Bandorf addressed the Waverly investigation. He stated that the Sheriff should be a constitutional sheriff and should take over the jail. He also feels that the Medical Examiner's office should be run by the State of Florida.

Chair Brown addressed the video camera in the room and Mr. Bandorf stated that he was recording for the volusiaexposed.com website.

Greg Gimbert agreed with statements made by John Bandorf concerning the sheriff being a constitutional sheriff. He would also like a two year term limit for elected officials. He asked that beach driving be voted on by citizens. He stated that there should be a prohibition of beach tolls. Mr. Gimbert provided handouts to the

commission. Questions were presented and discussion ensued between Mr. Escudero, Dr. Fluechaus and Mr. Gimbert in regards to the cost associated with two year terms.

Sandra Snodgrass would like the charter to consider a two year term limit for county council members. She also recommended prohibiting beach fees and allowing the voters to decide what happens to the beach.

Linda McIntyre recommended saving beach driving and letting the voters decide. She is opposed to beach tolls for residents but would like visitors to be charged. She also stated she would like term limits set for elected officials, she did not state what term limits would be preferred.

Judge Michael McDermott feels the county council members should have staff. He also wanted to clarify what was discussed at the September 29, 2015 listening session in regards to where courthouses can be built and the handout that he provided. He feels that the people of Volusia County should be given a voice.

David Davis spoke about creating an ethics commission. He spoke about corruption and the distrust in government and that we have to build back up public trust. Mr. Davis provided a handout from the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics for the commission to review.

Lori Waters spoke on many issues. She stated that the public education system doesn't work. In addition she spoke about low income housing, section 8, fair housing, Veteran's assistance, child and family services, reporting abuse, and the salary of the county manager.

Vernon Weatherholtz would like beach driving on the ballot. He feels that hotels should provide and purchase land for adequate parking. He stated that there should be access to the beach as well as showers for the public. He supports two year term limits of elected officials. He stated that people don't trust the government. He began to mention the compensation of the County Chair; he then referred to handout which he provided to the commission.

Michael Porter spoke about the beach, fishing and how the state regulates fishing on the beach. He also discussed bike paths and sidewalks being ADA accessible. He discussed creating an ADA advisory board.

Linda Smiley would like two year term limits for elected officials. She supports removing beach tolls. She wants to change the way the Charter Review Commission is selected as she feels that there is a conflict of interest with those who have served. She discussed the need for higher paying jobs and health care for unemployed people. She feels if hotels do not want beach driving, then they should provide the parking and maintain it.

Peter Kouracos, representative of Volusia Republican Assembly, supports letting citizens vote to resolve issues and look to the public for guidance.

Lori Waters spoke again, wanting to know who hired Mr. Dinneen. She also spoke about jail issues.

Christine Bejune would like shorter term limits on county council members. She would like the voters to make decisions on beach driving. She stated that she does not oppose beach tolls. She suggested charging for parking at the beachfront parks. She finds the number of homeless people near the beach disturbing.

Public participation ended.

RULES & PROCEDURES

Dona DeMarsh Butler referred to the handout presented to the commission. She gave an overview of the changes from the previous set of rules and procedures. This included location of subcommittees if created, audio recordings of meeting instead of tapes, and posting to website instead of libraries. Motion for approval was made by Mr. Watts and seconded by Ms. Northey. The motion was approved unanimously.

ISSUES SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Chair Brown read aloud the list of issues that have been submitted by commission members for consideration. He asked the commission how they would like to handle the issues. He suggested breaking issues into pods. Mr. Bruno wants speakers and wants to group together the issues and be put into separate pods. Mr. Escudero liked the pod idea. Chair Brown would like to discuss as a whole not as a subcommittee. Mr. Haas would like the discussion topics to occur consecutively starting from the beginning of the charter. Discussion ensued and Chair Brown asked Mr. Eckert to speak about transitional provision.

Chair Brown stated that he would like everything that is submitted to the chair be numbered and date stamped. Chair Brown asked if there were any easy topics that the commission would like to discuss. Chair Brown stated that he was not aware that the County Council members were not reimbursed for travel. Discussion ensued about what is reasonable and who determines the justification on who attends what event. Mr. Haas would like the language changed to allow council members to be reimbursed. Discussion in regards to a cap on reimbursement was discussed. Ms. Northey stated that an office account should be set up

Mr. Dinneen stated that they can keep mileage logs and receipts for expenses as well as an agenda. Chair Brown asked that staff create an amendment and provide it at the next meeting. He also asked that staff create pods about issues.

DISCUSSION

Chair Brown wants whomever the commission would like to attend future meeting to be invited to speak. There was a discussion about what groups will attend and what issues will be discussed. Ms. Northey mentioned that charter members had previously submitted lists of groups or individuals they were recommending to invite to speak. Recommendations discussed by the committee included: Kent Sharples; Douglas Gibson, Mayor of Oak Hill; Team Volusia; and the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD). The commission discussed which topics they would like to talk about with each group.

Chair Brown stated that at the December charter meeting the commission would discuss the Volusia Growth Management Commission (VGMC). How county council approves and rejects the VGMC budget was discussed. The commission discussed having topics in sections 205.1 through 205.6 on the agenda at the November charter meeting. Discussion of these topics would exclude beach driving, which the commission agreed will not be a topic for discussion as it is currently in litigation, it will be discussed after it is out of the court system.

The commission would like to establish an order of discussion for the next meeting on how they will go through the charter. They discussed how to invite groups to meetings. Mrs. Butler stated that we can extend invitations to agencies, post on social media, issue press releases, and post on our website. Mr. Watts asked if an area was set up to receive notifications about issues. Mrs. Butler responded that it is not currently set up, but it can be done. Mr. Dinneen stated that we can do a media blast and notify everyone so no one will be left out.

Chair Brown asked that the commission review the data that was prepared by staff so that it can be discussed at the November charter meeting if time allows and if not it will be discussed at the December meeting. Discussion at the November meeting will be article 1 and article 2 of the charter, except for the VGMC.

Mr. Darden withdrew the motion that he made at the September 3, 2015 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Volusia Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.