



April 17, 2013 at 7:30pm
Notice posted

Minutes

PUBLIC MEETING

**Meeting of the Charter Review Commission
Cuyahoga County
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.
Westlake Recreation Center, Westlake OH**

Required notices were provided and posted and the public meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by the Chair.

Present: Akers; Tarter; Russell; Riley; Albright; McLaughlin; Headen

Absent: Callahan; Dietrich (Note: Callahan arrived at 7:50)

A quorum was present.

Akers introduced himself to the members of the public who attended the first public meeting of the Charter Review Commission. **Akers** provided background on the process that had begun with the drafting of the Charter and the mandate that a Charter Review Commission be appointed two years after the new government was installed. He noted that the CRC had drafted numerous slides to detail some of the proposals that had been mentioned but noted that no decisions had been made by the CRC regarding possible charter amendments. **Akers** noted that the members of the CRC would briefly review the slides with the attendees and thereafter, the member of the public would be free to comment or ask questions of the CRC. A copy of the slides introduced is attached hereto and incorporated in the record.

Slide 1: Appointment of Clerk of Courts (introduced by **Russell**);
 Slide 2: Time for Confirmation of Executive Appointments (**Russell**);
 Slide 3: Eliminating Political Affiliation Language in Charter (**Albright**);
 Slide 4: Board of Revision (**Albright**);
 Slide 5: Executive Residency (**Riley**);
 Slide 6: Placing Treasurer under the Fiscal Officer (**Riley**);
 Slide 7: Interim Appointments by the County Executive (**Riley**);
 Slide 8: Executive Succession (**Riley**);
 Slide 9: Appointment and Removal of County Sheriff (**Headen**);
 Slide 10: Appointment of the Human Resource Commission (**Headen**);
 Slide 11: Annual Justice System Audit (**McLaughlin**);
 Slide 12: Assignment of Duties—Law Director/Prosecutor (**McLaughlin**);
 Slide 13: Inspector General's Office (**Riley**);
 Slide 14: Council Action not Requiring Executive Action (**Riley**);
 Slide 15: Exec/Council Vacancies—Length of Appointment (**Tarter**);
 Slide 16: Effective Date of Council Redistricting (**Tarter**);
 Slide 17: Effect of Redistricting on Council Eligibility (**Akers**);
 Slide 18: Process to Select Prosecuting Attorney (**Akers**).

After presenting the slides, **Akers** invited questions, comments or other thoughts from the members of the audience. **Doug Cooper** addressed some thoughts regarding the Board of Revision. **Cooper** noted that he previously served as a hearing officer for the BOR. **Cooper** presented several points for consideration. He noted that the Statutory Board of Revision acts as a check and balance to the work of the appraisal process and felt that this body should be manned solely by elected officials. He noted that Summit County has an Executive form of government and its BOR is composed of three elected officials—County Executive, Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Courts. **Cooper** addressed the political party affiliation requirements in Charter Section 6.02 and felt that the inclusion of different political parties did not impact the operations and allowed differing opinions in the discussions. He asked for the continuation of this requirement in the Charter. **Cooper** also requested that the appointing authority (2/3 appointed by the Council and 1/3 appointed by the Executive) remain the same. **Cooper** felt that maintaining a residence in Cuyahoga County was important for the members of the various hearing boards as this would lead to an intimate familiarity with the geography. **Cooper** re-iterated his posture that the members of the hearing boards should be county employees rather than independent contractors. He also opined that the role of the Council should be strengthened throughout the hiring and the administrative process. Finally, **Cooper** stated that a comprehensive review of the entire Ohio Revised Code Section addressing the Board of Revision should be

reviewed and assessed to make sure that the County Charter provisions comport with all aspects of Ohio law.

Patrick Madigan added public comments about the manner in which the Clerk of Courts was appointed and the work that was performed. He drew upon his work experience with the City of Cleveland and his knowledge of the manner in which the Clerk interacted with the Courts. He felt that the Clerk of Courts was a better fit under the Courts than the Executive.

Mitchell Fallis added public comment about the possibility of placing the Treasurer's office under the Fiscal Officer. He drew upon his background as a CPA and stated that such a relationship was not desirable and was not a "best practice" to follow. He noted that the two positions acted as checks of each other.

Councilman Dale Miller attended the Public Hearing and presented background information for the members of the public that were in attendance. Additionally, **Miller** addressed work that the County Council had performed last year on the amendments that were considered as well as the ones that were placed on the ballot. **Miller** also addressed the manner in which the work was performed and the timetables that would need to be followed by the Charter Review Commission, the County Council and the electorate.

There being no further business before the CRC, **Tarter** made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by **McLaughlin**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Draft_____

Issue_____

App._____

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