

**CHARTER REVISION BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
June 24, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. on the above date, City Commission Meeting Room of City Hall.

Roll call showed:

Present: Gregory Durden
Chris Fertig
Daniel W. Lewis
Judy Stern

Absent: Ronald K. Wright

Also Present: City Manager George Gretsas
City Auditor John Herbst
City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney Harry A. Stewart

Chairman Durden referred to discussion at the last meeting about public input. There was a problem with community forums because of the televising requirement.

Mr. Fertig felt it is important to go out to the community. He thought more people would be drawn to attend.

Ms. Stern had no preference. She noted the meetings are televised; it is on the internet; there have been newspaper articles that the Board is meeting.

Mr. Lewis was a strong proponent for community involvement and for advisory committees reaching out to the community. He questioned this board's role in that the previous board did a great deal of work and it was not effective. He felt the real issue is to determine what the Commission would like it to do; what is the purpose. If the purpose is to do a charter review, then it would be of benefit to reach out to the community.

Ms. Stern pointed out that the Commission is elected and they have provided issues to this board for review. She felt the Board should do what the Commission has asked it to do.

The City Clerk raised the difficulty of televising. In response to Chairman Durden, the City Attorney indicated the staff would be placed in a difficult situation if the Board decided to conduct meetings that could not be televised. Staff has been directed to televise the meetings. There are no resources, equipment, etc. to televise except in the chambers and the eighth floor conference room. If the Board wishes to go out into the community, he suggested a letter from the Chairman, requesting the Commission to direct staff to provide for the meetings and not televise.

Mr. Lewis pointed out the Board is advisory in nature, but independent according to the Charter. He did not think that the Commission could insist. It is not necessary to ask permission. Staff is not required to attend.

Chairman Durden had no problem making a request of the Commission in the spirit of cooperation. He felt it is a benefit for staff to be in attendance. He indicated that he will pursue this with the Commission. Before going out into the community, he first wanted to frame the issues.

Motion made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Fertig, authorizing the Chairman to request from the Commission what the Chairman would like to do (in terms of public outreach), carried by a vote of 3-1. Ms. Stern voted no.

Chairman Durden referred to an email sent to the Board. Mr. Lewis indicated he requested it be placed on the next agenda. A vote would be taken at the time whether or not to discuss it.

Approve Minutes

The May 13, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.
4-0

Change terms of office to four years to facilitate moving election date to coincide with general elections held in November of even numbered years

Chairman Durden opened the floor for public comment.

Elizabeth Hays, Riverland resident, indicated that although not necessarily in favor of four-year terms, she understands the rationale is to coincide with national elections. It is also a monetary consideration. She preferred three years, but there are many positive reasons for four years. She was concerned that the municipal elections get lost in the national elections. She was concerned about the voter being familiar with the City's issues. People who turn out to vote at the three year intervals really care about the City.

Ms. Stern understood there may be changes during the upcoming legislative session that may clear up the issue of whether a primary would be held. The City Attorney noted those discussions would take place in October, November, December and early next year for passing legislation in the next session.

Chairman Durden noted Mayor Naugle's idea for the general election to be a primary and to have a general election follow. The City Attorney indicated this is a possibility. The special act for Broward County does not address a run-off election, but implies there would not be a run-off. As it is now a plurality will elect in November for city elections. Under home-rule powers, the City may be able to argue it and he thought it was hopeful.

Mr. Fertig asked how a change of municipal elections to the November elections at four year intervals would impact term limits. The City Attorney explained this issue would require five or six different amendments to different sections of the Charter. He referred to materials provided to the Board labeled Mayor Naugle's requests: 1) delete reference to primary election; 2) conform terms to four years; 3) conform reference in Section 7.12 to four years. The Board would then have to decide whether term limits would be eight

or twelve years or reference to term limits deleted. He did not think there are any other sections to address.

At Chairman Durden's suggestion, there was consensus that he would meet with the City Attorney to structure the next agenda with the issues framed for the benefit of the public.

In response to Chairman Durden, the City Attorney explained the history behind the consistency in five-member commissions. The point was raised concerning the budget playing a part in size of the commission and staff.

Motion by Ms. Stern, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to defer further discussion on this item until more public input is received, carried unanimously. 4-0

Mr. Fertig suggested Chairman Durden add all issues he can think of be put on the face of the next agenda. Then the Board can decide if they wish to discuss each subject. Such structure would be helpful.

Public Input

Elizabeth Hays shared how she as Chair of the Education Advisory Board puts the agenda together. She suggested the Chair work with the staff liaison.

Ms. Hays referred to the email on seven issues to bring before the Board and asked if they will be on the July agenda. She wanted to make sure there is public input on the items as they have implications. She emphasized the importance of outreach for at-large input. There was disappointment that almost nothing came out of the previous Charter review. Mr. Fertig commented that the Board has encouraged input from individuals and groups. Recommendations were made to the Commission and they stayed there. Ms. Hays felt perhaps it is a matter of waiting for the new Commission with the upcoming election.

Richard Mancuso indicated the email was from him. He believed the Council of Civic Associations is meeting the same evening as this board on July 8th.

Mr. Mancuso suggested meetings be recorded and broadcasted at a later time to solve the logistical problems with televising live.

The City Attorney advised only three members have confirmed availability for the next meeting on July 8th. Meetings are being scheduled whenever three can attend. Mr. Fertig indicated he will be on vacation on that date. Both Chairman Durden and Ms. Stern indicated their availability. Mr. Lewis indicated it would depend on the agenda.

Issues for future agendas

Old business

New business

There being no other matters to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

