

**CHARTER REVISION BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
November 5, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. on the above date by Chairman Ketcham in the City Commission Meeting Room of City Hall.

Roll call showed:

Present: Mark E. Ketcham, Chair  
Alain Jean  
E. Clay Shaw

Absent: Maria Del Rosario Lescano  
Judy Stern

Also Present: Julie Richards, Assistant To The City Manager  
John Herbst, City Auditor  
Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk  
Harry A. Stewart, City Attorney

**1. Approve Minutes – October 1, 2009**

**Motion** made by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Jean to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2009 meeting. Roll call showed: YEAS: Members Jean and Shaw and Chairman Ketcham. NAYS: None.

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**2. Communications to the City Commission**

The City Clerk outlined the City Commission's policy on communications from their advisory boards. At the board's first meeting, there was discussion of a joint workshop with the Commission, which was essentially such a communication. That communication went to the Commission and they decided to schedule such a workshop with the board on December 1, 2009, at noon, on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, with lunch.

In response to Chairman Ketcham's question, the City Attorney advised that the board's action on October 1<sup>st</sup> about the five-year finance plan has not yet been communicated to the Commission. An ordinance will be provided to the board next month, which will then be provided to the Commission.

**3. Public Input**

Chairman Ketcham thought if there are additional items from the public that the board or staff receives, the board may wish to provide a list of those items to the Commission for the December 1<sup>st</sup> workshop.

Robert Walsh, Fort Lauderdale resident, expressed concern about the length of the City Commission meetings and safety in commuting home. He suggested starting the conference meeting at 11 a.m. and presentations and recognitions be handled during the afternoon session. He was also concerned about matters being discussed in a late

hour when some people are not present. Chairman Ketcham agreed to put this item on the list for discussion at the December 1<sup>st</sup> workshop. A copy of Ms. Stern's memorandum on this matter, dated November 5, 2009, is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Walsh was concerned about his inquiry to Ms. Stern and her response. Chairman Ketcham suggested he discuss this at the board's next meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Shaw commented about the starting time of discussion items by the Commission when he was mayor was 8 a.m. and the regular meeting followed. In response to his question, the City Attorney advised that the charter indicates that all official actions of the Commission must occur after six o'clock to allow the public to participate.

Mr. Jean felt most of the complaints have to do with the desire for a definite end-time. The City Attorney elaborated upon the scheduling needs for quasi-judicial matters. He agreed with Mr. Jean.

Richard Mancuso, Fort Lauderdale resident, referred to charter issues he sent to the board under the categories of organization, management, performance, commission, meetings, transparency, government finance, charter revision board, citizens and other. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Ketcham wanted Mr. Mancuso to highlight key items and staff to provide a status on the items because the board is new.

In response to Mr. Jean, the City Attorney advised it is a matter of deciding on whether to amend the charter and to what extent of detail. Most of the items can be addressed by ordinance which leaves it to the decision of the City Commission.

Mr. Mancuso explained that if written as an ordinance, it can be repealed, which is the danger. He indicated that the information was organized by category as opposed to priority. He emphasized anything having to do with ethics.

Mr. Jean thought some of the items could be clarified at the joint workshop.

Mr. Mancuso pointed to election terms and cycles. There was discussion in 2004 and nothing was done. With the upcoming census, it is a good time to discuss this as well as any possible district changes.

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Chairman Ketcham commented that in order to discuss a topic, the county charter board first requires a majority vote. He suggested this rule be followed for this board as anything that would ultimately be recommended to the Commission would require a majority vote. Because of the April deadline, he wanted to start narrowing down topics by December-January.

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#### **4. Issues for Future Agendas**

Chairman Ketcham anticipated much of the board's agenda will come out of the December 1<sup>st</sup> workshop.

5. **Old Business** - none
6. **New Business** - none

There being no other matters to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.