

**CHARTER REVISION BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
February 2, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. on the above date by Chairperson Stern in the City Commission Meeting Room of City Hall.

Roll call showed:

Present: Rochelle Golub  
Maria Del Rosario Lescano  
Judy Stern, Chair

Also Present: Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk  
Paul Bangel, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Absent: Alain Jean  
E. Clay Shaw

1. **Approve minutes – October 18, 2011, November 22, 2011 and December 1, 2011**

With a **motion** made by Ms. Lescano and seconded by Ms. Golub, the October 18, 2011, November 22, 2011 and December 1, 2011 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2. **Discuss Amending City Charter, Articles III and IV (City Government and Form of Government and Elections)**

Chairperson Stern referred to the confusion of people in the last election as to who had the right to vote. The City has a different system from the County. The public is confused about the different election dates. She noted the significant savings achieved by the City holding an election with the recent presidential preference. With three year terms, the City's next election will not coincide with a County election and therefore a greater expense. It is a large expense considering the poor voter turnout. She suggested changing the length of terms to four years, while maintaining the three term limit. It may be possible to make the public more aware of elections and potential savings by joining the County's cycle. Also, state law provides a \$500 cap on personal or corporate contributions per election cycle whereas the City's ordinance specifies \$250 for an election, but does not specify cycles. One could receive contributions for a primary and a general. She remarked also about the outright election violations by candidates who did not have an understanding of the law. Ms. Golub questioned whether this is the correct forum for this issue. The board could look at any existing process with respect to violations. Chairperson Stern noted that the March 13 election is a different cycle than the January 31. She thought it would be helpful to meet with the City Attorney to develop language. Ms. Golub did not believe this is a section that the Commission directed the board to look into. Chairperson Stern thought that the Commission had directed the board to look at that section dealing with elections and she believed because of the issues uncovered during the last election, they will assuredly want the board to move forward on this. Ms. Golub wanted to make sure the board has the Commission's

authorization. Chairperson Stern explained her goal is more cost-efficient elections and a clear record of discussion on topics before it is presented to the public.

As to form of government, Ms. Golub thought the Chairperson could handle this article.

3. **Discuss any amendment to Charter suggested by Board Members** – none
4. **Public input** - none
5. **Issues for future agendas** - none
6. **Old business**

As to Sale of City Property, Ms. Golub advised that on December 16, she met with Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation who had just assumed additional responsibilities including management of City properties. They intend to reconvene in February, giving his staff time to review current charter and history of working with it.

7. **New business** - none
8. **Adjourn**

There being no other matters to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.