

**CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**ANNOTATED MINUTES**

**PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF  
PAULA S. O'NEIL, CLERK & COMPTROLLER**

**THE MINUTES WERE PREPARED  
IN AGENDA ORDER AS PUBLISHED AND NOT IN THE  
ORDER THE ITEMS WERE HEARD**

**AUGUST 10, 2015**

**2:30 P.M.**

**HISTORIC PASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BOARD ROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
37918 MERIDIAN AVENUE, DADE CITY, FLORIDA 33525**

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Charter Commission Members

Michael Cox, Chairman  
Randy Maggard, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Booth  
Gary Bradford  
Billy E. Brown  
Mel Eakley  
Robert Eckard - **ABSENT**  
John J. Gallagher  
Candace Glewen  
Chuck Grey  
Jim Driscoll – **Resigned & Replaced by Pattie Spoeth, District 4 Alternate**  
John Kinsman  
Dewey Mitchell  
Mike Ryan - **ABSENT**  
Bill Woodard - **ABSENT**

Charter Commission Alternates

Cliff McDuffie, District 1  
Joseph Poblick, District 2  
Dominic Scannavino, District 3  
Pattie Spoeth, District 4  
Cami Austin, District 5

Advisory Staff

Michele Baker, County Administrator  
Jeffrey Steinsnyder, County Attorney  
Richard Gehring, Planning and Development Administrator  
Kurt Spitzer, Consultant

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## **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Michael Cox called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

## **2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Donalee Schmidt, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **3. Roll Call**

Ms. Schmidt called the roll. All Committee Members and Alternates were present with the exception of Mr. Robert Eckard, Mr. Mike Ryan and Mr. Bill Woodard who were absent.

Chairman Cox stated that Mr. Jim Driscoll had resigned from the Committee due to family health issues. Ms. Pattie Spoeth, District 4 Alternate, would replace Mr. Driscoll. The Board of County Commissioners would not appoint another alternate at this time.

## **4. Review of Fact-Finding Presentations from County and Constitutional Officers**

Chairman Cox asked if any members wished to discuss the previous presentations held.

No members wished to discuss the presentations.

## **5. Attributes of Charter Provisions and Discussion Committee/Consultant**

Chairman Cox explained originally this meeting was planned as the decision point. The decision had been postponed to August 24, 2015 in the hope to have Representative Corcoran and the Legislature in attendance to provide a presentation and discussion with the Committee. He had been told that Representative Corcoran was not available on that date. As an alternative he had requested Representative Corcoran submit a letter regarding his thoughts on the issue. He noted he had read newspaper articles and had spoken with Representative Corcoran and understood why he promoted the issue. He encouraged the other Commission Members to also contact him or read the articles. He hoped they could discuss those thoughts at the next meeting.

Discussion followed regarding a request that Representative Corcoran's Legislative Aid attend the meeting in addition to providing a written letter; and whether alternative dates had been offered.

Mr. Spitzer gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed a spreadsheet regarding processes followed in some Charter counties and possible alternatives.

Mr. Steinsnyder and Mr. Spitzer responded to questions from the Committee Members.

Extensive discussion followed among the Committee Members and Staff regarding the various alternatives available; possible issues; unintended consequences; possible recall procedures; non-partisan elections; the process for amending a Charter; the order for discussion items at the August 24, 2015 meeting; that they were not yet sure if anyone from the Legislative Delegation would attend the meeting or if they would receive a letter; it was unfair to the Committee and the time being spent to not know if they would attend the meeting; and the need for the letter to be submitted at least one week prior to the meeting to allow the Committee Members time to digest the information.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** to continue the discussion to August 24, 2015, that the first order of business could be a vote as to whether the Committee wanted to have a Charter or not, and if the answer was yes then the Consultant should be prepared with a list of issues the Committee could vote up or down on to be placed in the Charter.

**MOTION AMENDED** to have the Legislative Delegation presentation prior to the vote.

**MOTION CLARIFIED** to state the first item on the Agenda could be a presentation by Representative Corcoran, the second would be the vote of up or down for the Charter, and if there were positive things they wanted to see in a Charter they would proceed with discussion; the vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding the need to discuss the issues; the need to bring a conclusion to the items; that on the 24<sup>th</sup> they would decide whether or not a Charter would be done; the need to have a consolidated list of the issues to discuss; and a decision to postpone discussions until the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **6. Remarks of Interested Citizens**

## **CAC Chair**

Chairman Cox noted a Resolution by the Municipal Association of Pasco County had been distributed to the Committee Members.

St. Leo Mayor James Hallett, representing the Municipal Association of Pasco County, presented the Resolution to the Committee Members and stated he appreciated the process they were following.

Zephyrhills Councilman Lance Smith thanked the Committee Members for their participation on the Committee. The Municipal Association of Pasco represented approximately 41,000 citizens of the County in six different municipalities. They were very concerned with the impact a potential Charter would have on the cities and the

motivation to rush through the issue. Last Thursday the Municipal Association unanimously voted to ask that the issue be reconsidered. He felt they needed to decide one way or another on the issue. As a citizen, he would support letting the citizen initiatives make the decisions. He thanked the Committee for their time.

Ms. Judy Geiger, Mr. Greg Smith, Ms. Pat Mulieri, Mr. Richard Riley and Mr. Cal Branche spoke under public comment regarding concerns with single-member districts; that as a voter they did not feel qualified to select a County Administrator; there was no real reason to form a Charter; this was a special interest; the current government structure worked well with access to government employees and elected officials; just because other counties were Charters did not mean Pasco needed to do it; Pasco was unique; "if it ain't broke don't fix it"; it was not a bad idea to consider alternatives; costs involved with changing a public office from elected to appointed; intangibles to consider such as the effect of increasing executive authority; the wisdom of increasing administrative costs when many basic functions such as libraries, parks and infrastructure had been under extreme budget constraints for over a decade; the original impetus for this came from Tallahassee and not from a grass roots public demand; why would they trade the Commission for one person who had all the power; maybe someday there should be a Charter; that things were picking up and they needed stability; utility taxes in Charter counties; that a Charter should be a citizen initiative; if a no vote for the Charter would allow a citizens petition; another group looking into a Charter; there was no support for single-member districts; no issue with partisan; no problem with the terms of office; no residency problem; no redistricting problem; no problem with the Administrator; the Constitutional Officers were doing a very good job; the audit issue seemed to be a "red herring"; if they were looking for problems that did not exist they might try to find something, but it would not stand up to a close look; there was no justification; just because you could doesn't mean you should; more power in people's hands is the exact opposite of what was intended by the person who started this; and when someone built a wall they needed to be careful of what they were walling in or walling out.

Discussion followed that if they chose not to write a Charter they may have one written for them; and the petition process for a Charter Commission.

**7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Clerk**

**MOTION TO APPROVE** the minutes; the vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**8. Reports of Committees**

None.

**9. Unfinished Business (Including actions on any of the reports or presentations)**

None

**10. New Business**

**CAC Chair**

None

**THE COMMITTEE RECESSED AT 3:57 P.M. AND RECONVENED AT 4:08 P.M. ALL MEMBERS WERE PRESENT.**

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

CHARTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2015

*Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Clerk & Comptroller*

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donalee Schmidt, Operations Lead  
Board Records Department