

APRIL 7, 2005 - CHARTER REVIEW BOARD - DRAFT MINUTES

The Charter Review Board (CRB), Hillsborough County, Florida, met in Regular Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005, at 6:00 p.m., in the Boardroom, Frederick B. Karl County Center, Tampa, Florida.

The following members were present:

Jan Platt, Chairman	Sharon Miller
Terry Ballard	Yvette Miranda-Chapman
Jim Beeler (arrived at 6:08 p.m.)	(arrived at 6:07 p.m.) Jim Porter
Ralph Fisher	David Storck
Hung Mai	Mitch Thrower
A. J. (Marc) Mandt	Gerald White

The following members were absent:

Keith Hall	Janet Wilson
------------	--------------

Chairman Platt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and requested a moment of silent prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 28, 2005, MINUTES

Mr. Fisher moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ballard, and carried ten to zero. (Mr. Beeler and Ms. Miranda-Chapman had not arrived; Mr. Hall and Ms. Wilson were absent.)

DR. JAMIL JREISAT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (USF)

Following comments on charter review and potential improvements in the way Hillsborough County conducted business, Dr. Jreisat suggested electing a Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chairman, either by the BOCC or by citizens, for a term of four years, to provide leadership with specific responsibilities for BOCC operation and representation; to conduct nonpartisan BOCC elections; and to develop a local ethics code to be more stringent than the State ethics code, and establish an advisory board comprised of citizen volunteers to review ethics violations and make recommendations.

Assistant County Attorney Kenneth Tinkler administered the oath of office to Mr. Beeler.

Dr. Jreisat responded to member queries and discussed elements of partisan and nonpartisan elections, nonpartisanship and professionalism in budget approval and program implementation, apparent weaknesses in the State ethics code, citizens board for ethics review and advisory opinion, chairman responsibilities and leadership, election terms, and whether to define

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005 - DRAFT MINUTES

responsibilities for BOCC members. In response to Ms. Miller, Dr. Jreisat agreed the BOCC should be nonpartisan before pursuing a leadership chairman.

ROBERT HUNTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

After noting he would respond to queries raised by the CRB at a prior meeting, Mr. Hunter explained the process by which the PC provided redistricting services to the Hillsborough County School Board and the city of Tampa City Council and weighed the advantages of providing redistricting services to the BOCC. He said the issue did not have to be addressed through the charter but could be forwarded as a recommendation to the BOCC. In response to Mr. Hunter, Mr. Mai explained his query regarding whether the PC and the Planning and Growth Management Department (PGMD) should be merged. Mr. Hunter explained State law established the PC to conduct long-range planning, reviewed the different functions of the PC and the PGMD, and did not perceive a duplication of services. Mr. Mai noted the services were combined in Pasco County. Mr. Hunter supported independency for planning commissions. Chairman Platt recalled zoning issues and the history of each agency. Mr. Hunter noted cost savings in providing long-range planning coordination for the four local governments and voiced support for the process and decision-making by respective elected officials.

Mr. Beeler offered insight on the functioning of the PC and recalled suggestions to change the PGMD name to clarify duties for zoning. Mr. Hunter responded to member queries and discussed the creation of the PC by State statute, periodic review every 15 years, appointment and makeup of the PC Board and staff, and perceived political independence in the provision of redistricting services. In response to Mr. White, Mr. Hunter agreed to provide the CRB with language on how redistricting would be conducted. In response to Ms. Miller, Mr. Hunter said redistricting draft maps were presented to the Justice Department to ensure minority representation prior to presentation to respective boards for approval.

FORMER COMMISSIONER JOHN PAULK

Mr. Paulk supported single-member districts to increase the likelihood of persons being elected from various areas in the County and opined elected officials should conduct redistricting. Mr. Paulk responded to member queries and voiced support for a total of seven single-member districts and a figurehead chairman to represent the County, or an elected mayor, and perceived difficulty in establishing residency requirements for elected officials at-large.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005 - DRAFT MINUTES

MIKE FOERSTER, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, MARKETING PLAN PRESENTATION

Mr. Foerster reviewed information provided on public awareness opportunities and services provided by the Communications Department, showed a two minute newscast segment on the CRB, noted news coverage would continue on Hillsborough This Week, and opined the CRB would receive more public input when discussions became more substantive and less fact-finding.

In reply to Ms. Miller, Mr. Foerster agreed to seek alternative communication methods outside of utility bill inserts and cable television broadcasts and offered to work on an advertising plan and budget. Mr. White suggested including a charter review survey in The Communicator, as was done in the past, or in The Tampa Tribune. Mr. Foerster agreed and offered suggestions. Chairman Platt and Mr. Porter discussed CRB development and approval of a survey. Mr. Foerster suggested seeking a representative from USF to provide professional input on surveys. Discussion included survey timeliness, other methods of communication, a comment card distributed as a survey, and whether responses had been received from comment cards provided at the 2005 Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference. Ms. Shelley Blood, CRB Director, confirmed she had not received comment card responses.

Mr. Thrower suggested approving a survey for distribution at the April 28, 2005, BOCC town hall meeting, and he volunteered to be the CRB representative. Chairman Platt said materials provided should include charter booklets, member contact list, and meeting dates; requested staff develop a calendar for distribution; suggested the CRB postpone the survey issue and review the communications package; and requested Mr. Foerster be available for questions at the next meeting. Mr. Foerster agreed. Mr. Thrower suggested the comment card be e-mailed to members for review. Ms. Blood agreed.

STAFF UPDATE

Ms. Blood reported Mr. Mai had also volunteered to provide representation at the town hall meeting, noted Mr. Ballard brought copies of books requested for CRB review, and reported the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had invited Chairman Platt to speak at the April 22, 2005, CAC meeting. She noted the sample letterhead had been ordered, commented on upcoming speakers, and anticipated an upcoming meeting date would need to be rescheduled for boardroom availability. Following discussion, Mr. Mandt noted the CRB had not provided authorization to order the letterhead. **Mr. Ballard moved the letterhead be approved as submitted, seconded by Mr. White.** Ms. Miller requested her middle initial be included; Ms. Blood agreed, if the letterhead

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005 - DRAFT MINUTES

had not been printed. **Mr. Ballard included that in the motion.** In response to Mr. Porter, Ms. Blood confirmed letters were to be approved by the CRB and signed by the Chairman. **The motion carried twelve to zero.** (Mr. Hall and Ms. Wilson were absent.)

In response to Chairman Platt, Ms. Blood anticipated additional staff assistance within the next week. Mr. White requested a monthly budget report. Ms. Blood agreed. Referencing the letter from the Tax Collector, Mr. White clarified issues raised regarding the budget for constitutional officers.

COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATE

Attorney Tinkler referenced language provided by the Property Appraiser's Office regarding the tax immunity issue for the CRB to consider, and he would provide a report following review. Mr. White requested information on BOCC Chairman duties. Chairman Platt noted duties were outlined in BOCC rules of order. Attorney Tinkler agreed to provide that information. Mr. Beeler requested information on the funding mechanism and budget submission of constitutional officers. Chairman Platt commented on the County budget process, County Administrator review, and State law provision for appeal if the budget was not approved. In reply to Chairman Platt, Attorney Tinkler confirmed State law established the process, and each constitutional officer had an appellate mechanism if budgets were not approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Platt called for public comment; there was no response.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

READ AND APPROVED: _____

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PAT FRANK, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

lm