



OHIO CONSTITUTION MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

COORDINATING COMMITTEE
KATHLEEN TRAFFORD, CHAIR
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

Chair Trafford called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Coordinating Committee to order at 3:08 pm. The clerk called the roll and a quorum was not present.

Chair Trafford began discussion of the need for Subject Committees to have a mechanism for advancement of issues. Chair Trafford noted that a conference call with all of the Subject Committee Chairs would not be in violation of Sunshine Laws and would help the Coordinating Committee guide Subject Committee matters more thoroughly.

Vice Chair Davidson explained that the role of the Coordinating Committee might not be clear to the Subject Matter Committees. The Vice Chair added that there is a need for protocol and guidance on a written product from the Coordinating Committee. It was suggested that the committee provide a visual guide for recommendations of what end products should look like. The Vice Chair also noted that it might be helpful for the Coordinating Committee to know the issues ahead of time so that commission members and members of the public could prepare their opinions. It was conferred by multiple committee members that the subcommittees are struggling with the next steps once a topic has been properly deliberated. Chair Trafford raised the question about appropriate language for these topics to be presented in. Vice Chair Davidson stated that it should be in constitutional language and that a legislative member of each committee would be able to ask the Legislative Service Commission for that assistance. This was decided to be the most effective way to prepare the legislature for a hearing on recommendations made by the commission. Mr. Mulvihill suggested there be a report made at the end of each deliberation process to keep a record of either why or why not a topic was recommended.

Senator Obhof brought up the need to look at constitutional issues that are obsolete in each respective committee. The Senator suggested that low hanging fruit could be grouped together as a package. Senator Obhof explained that the issues could be grouped together to become a single ballot issue with an explanation of what changes are being made to the constitution. He added the need for the constitution to be clear and concise. Chair Trafford suggested that Subject Matter Committee Chairs could compile a list of items pertaining to their committee that are obsolete. Mr. Mulvihill suggested that members of each respective committee would need to develop a topology as to why an issue in the constitution is obsolete. He expressed commonality needs to be evident for the togetherness of issues and all obsolete revisions must be done appropriately by section and must be publicized. Senator Obhof supported that statement by stating the Revisions Committee needs to publish initiated amendments in newspapers preceding elections. Mr. Mulvihill raised the question of modernizing provisions for publicizing

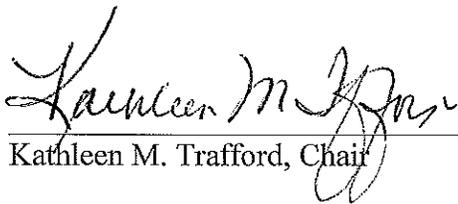
amendments because of digital upgrades. Senator Coley responded that there might be push back on that notion.

Chair Trafford said that she will reach out to Chairs before the next meeting for a conference call to decide if it is necessary for Coordinating Committee to meet. She added that giving up our slot of time would allow for committees to have more thoughtful conversations.

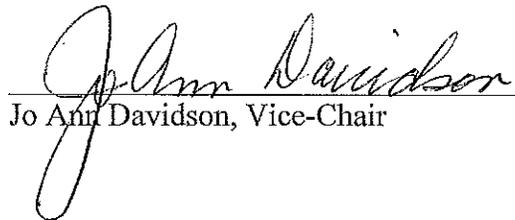
At 3:32 pm a quorum was present and Chair Trafford asked for the approval of the September 12, 2013 minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Vice Chair Davidson asked the Chair if she had spoken with the Attorney General's office regarding a question brought up at the September 12th meeting. The Chair was asked to inquire if members could call in to listen to committee discussion if they were unable to physically attend. Chair Trafford stated that the Attorney General's office advised her that members may call in, but only to hear discussion relevant to future votes. A committee member participating via phone call cannot participate in conversation, only listen.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 3:36 pm.



Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair



Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-Chair