

Co-Chair
Charleta B. Tavares
Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District



Co-Chair
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTION MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

COORDINATING COMMITTEE
KATHLEEN TRAFFORD, CHAIR
THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014

Chair Trafford called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Coordinating Committee to order at 9:27 am.

The first order of business was to clarify minutes from the previous meeting. There was a motion made by Senator Obhof to delete sentence three of the fourth paragraph. Vice Chair Davidson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as changed.

Chair Trafford discussed a conference call that took place between members of the Coordinating Committee and Chairs of the Subject Matter Committees on February 21st. It was relayed that the chairs are interested in having a recommended protocol for consistency in making committee recommendations to the full Commission. It was discussed that there was uncertainty in how the Coordinating Committee would proceed in making specific suggestions to the committee and raised the question about the process for bringing amendments to the Commission. It was noted that the Coordinating Committee should put together guidelines pertaining to both the timeline and format for advancing recommendations to the full Commission. There was discussion of a putting together a draft of procedures for the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the committee and that it would be beneficial to meet with the new Executive Director for input. Vice-Chair Davidson volunteered to work with the Chair to put a draft protocol to bring before the Coordinating Committee for its consideration.

Chair Trafford mentioned she reminded the Subject Matter Committee chairs of the need to identify obsolete provisions and that Professor Steinglass put together a working definition of what provisions might be regarded as "obsolete." Senator Obhof noted that he had started his own review of obsolete provisions and Chair Trafford recommended that he forward his thoughts and recommendations directly to the appropriate committee chair. The topic was brought up from an earlier discussion at the Commission level that it might be preferable to wait until the end of the entire process to put the obsolete provisions before the voters. Senator Obhof stated it may need to be done earlier in the process because the constitution is too big and too long and needs to be "modernized". It was asked for clarification if the Constitutional Modernization Commission can package obsolete provisions for a single ballot rather than taking each deletion before the voters separately. It was concluded that it's possible there could be one amendment for each group of changes; for example one amendment removing all bonding authority that has expired. It was noted that certain revisions could be packaged consistently within each group and the committees could have their recommended packages ready for the Commission to consider

but the Commission will ultimately decide the appropriate timing for making recommendations concerning obsolete provisions to the General Assembly, who will then decide whether and when recommendations should be put before the voters.

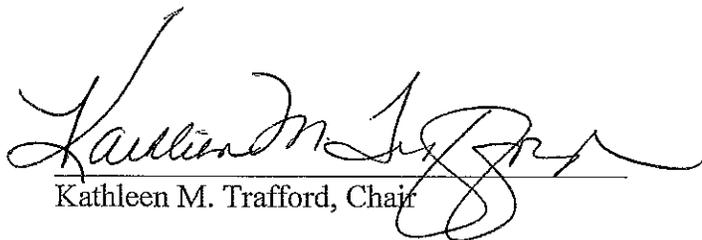
There was discussion of the need for keeping a record of testimony that is being offered to committees, specifically taping of hearings. It was suggested to make another formal request to the Co-Chairs to allow for recording Committee discussions. Many individuals do bring in copies of their testimony, but it was suggested that the committee would not want to penalize members of the public for not having written copies of their testimony because it is voluntary information. Vice Chair Davidson also brought up that there may be a need for subcommittee protocol in taking meetings on the road and that the Coordinating Committee should confer with the Public Education Committee on this topic.

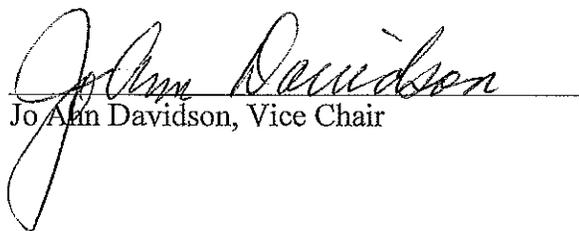
There was brief discussion regarding what is being posted on the website pertaining to committee testimony. It was suggested that there was no testimony posted from committee perhaps due to a staffing issue.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:44 am.

Approval:

These minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting of the Organization and Administration Committee were approved at the October 9, 2014 meeting of the committee


Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair


Jo Ann Davidson, Vice Chair