



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 9:27 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Trafford, Vice-chair Davidson, and committee members Abaray, Coley, Mulvihill, and Obhof in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 13, 2014 committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

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 21, 2014. She said the chairs are interested in having a recommended protocol for consistency in making committee recommendations to the full Commission. She added that they discussed that there was uncertainty in how the Coordinating Committee would proceed in making specific suggestions to the each committee and committee chairs asked about the process for bringing amendments to the Commission. Chair Trafford said 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. She said there was discussion of a putting together a draft of procedures for the chairs and vice-chairs to follow, and that it would be beneficial to meet with the new executive director for input.

Vice-chair Jo Ann Davidson volunteered to work with the chair to put together a draft protocol to bring before the Coordinating Committee for its consideration.

Chair Trafford said she reminded the subject matter committee chairs of the need to identify obsolete provisions, adding that Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass put together a working definition of what provisions might be regarded as “obsolete.” Senator Larry 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 committee discussed whether it would be preferable to wait until the end of the entire process to put the obsolete provisions before the voters. Sen. 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.” Committee members wondered whether the Commission can package recommendations regarding obsolete provisions for a single ballot rather than taking them to the voters separately. The committee concluded it is 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, which will then decide whether and when recommendations should be put before the voters.

The committee discussed the need for keeping a record of testimony that is being offered to committees, specifically the taping of hearings. It was suggested that another formal request could be made to the Commission co-chairs to allow for recording committee discussions. Many presenters do bring in copies of their presentations, 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. Ms. Davidson also brought up that there may be a need for committee protocol in taking meetings on the road and that the Coordinating Committee should confer with the Public Education and Information Committee on this topic.

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

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the March 13, 2014 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the June 12, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen M. Trafford
Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson
Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair