

Co-Chair
Vernon Sykes, Representative
34th House District



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

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

LIAISON WITH PUBLIC OFFICES COMMITTEE HERB ASHER, CHAIR THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

Roger Beckett called the joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaison with Public Offices Committee to order at 9:12 a.m. A quorum was present and the minutes from the two previous meetings were approved without objection.

The items outlined in the agenda were brought forward and were discussed by the joint committee.

Executive Director Steven Hollon provided a brief update on the communications director position, stating that nine candidates were interviewed and that Ms. Shaunte Russell will be recommended to the full commission meeting in the afternoon.

Mr. Beckett then moved the discussion to potential communication projects for the committee. Karla Bell suggested that an emphasis on holding regular public meetings should be explored. Ms. Bell noted that these types of meetings would create opportunities throughout the states for public input and participation.

Mr. Beckett then moved the discussion to the subject of commission rule changes. Dr. Larry Macon requested that committee minutes be expanded upon in order to allow commission members to view more detail of each committee's work so that members may better understand what has transpired. Mr. Beckett noted that committee chairs currently create committee reports after each meeting; however, there is no consistency between what committee chairs are including in those reports. Ms. Bell further expanded on Dr. Macon's thoughts and added that an overview of committee actions to date with the inclusion of possible future actions would be helpful to commission members. Representative Amstutz then stated that soliciting public input should be encouraged by committees working with focus group in order to develop proactive input rather than the input being a passive action. Ms. Bell expanded by saying that media should be well inform of the Commission's progress.

Frederick Mills inquired as to the wording in section 12.7 of the proposed amendments to the Commission rules. He noted that the last line should state "The Committee may waive ~~readings~~ considerations for non-controversial items." Richard Saphire then asked how considerations would be defined and if the considerations are of the proposed idea or are the considerations relating to exact language that the committee would be seeking to recommend to the full commission. Mr. Saphire then noted that it might not be advantageous or productive for the exact language to have three considerations. Chairman Asher then added that section 12.7 reads that discussions surrounding the temporary language with options for revisions are encouraged throughout. Senator Sawyer inquired as to whether the procedures of the Commission are comparable to the ballot board. Ms. Bell noted that exact language would be necessary at that point, while Representative Curtin stated that the General Assembly would the step in-between the Commission and the ballot board. Mr. Beckett then stated that section 12.7 was intentionally left vague to allow flux between committee and their chairs.

Ms. Bell motioned to change "readings" to "considerations," the motion was seconded by Representative Amstutz, and was subsequently approved by the joint committee without objection.

Representative Amsutz then inquired as to the choice of the word “discussion” in section 12.7 and whether it should state “The Subject Matter Committee shall not vote on a proposed recommendation to the Commission unless the proposal was on the agenda for ~~discussion~~ consideration at two previous meetings...” Mr. Mills motioned to change “discussion” to “consideration,” the motion was seconded by Ms. Bell, and was subsequently approved by the joint committee without objection.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

HERB ASHER, CHAIR

ROBERT TAFT, VICE CHAIR