

Co-Chair
Vernon Sykes, Representative
34th House District



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

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 8, 2013

Senate Members

Larry Obhof, Majority
Whip

Bill Coley

Bob Peterson

Charleta B. Tavares

Michael J. Skindell

Capri S. Cafaro

House Members

Peter Stautberg

Ron Amstutz

Kathleen Clyde

Dennis Murray

Public Members

Janet Abaray

Herb Asher

Roger L. Beckett

Karla L. Bell

Paula Brooks

Douglas R. Cole

JoAnn Davidson

Patrick F. Fischer

Judith L. French

Edward L. Gilbert

Charles F. Kurfess

Larry L. Macon

Frederick E. Mills

Dennis P. Mulvihill

Chad A. Readler

Richard R. Saphire

Bob Taft

Kathleen M. Trafford

Richard S. Walinski

Speaker Batchelder called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission meeting to order at 2:09pm and asked staff to call the roll. The following members were present:

Herb Asher

Speaker Batchelder

Roger L. Beckett

Rep. Kathleen Clyde

Douglas Cole

Sen. Bill Coley

Jo Ann Davidson

Patrick Fischer

Judith French

Edward Gilbert

Charles Kurfess

Dr. Larry Macon

Fred Mills

Dennis P. Mulvihill

Rep. Dennis Murray

Sen. Larry Obhof

Chad A. Readler

Richard B. Saphire

Sen. Michael Skindell

Rep. Peter Stautberg

Rep. Vernon Sykes

Robert A. Taft

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares

Staff noted that communication regarding anticipated absences had been received from Janet Abaray, Rep. Amstutz, Paula Brooks, Senator Cafaro, Senator Peterson, Bob Taft, and Richard Walinski prior to the meeting.

Speaker Batchelder asked the members to review and approve the minutes from the June 13, 2013 meeting. Senator Tavares moved to correct the minutes adding her name to list of members present. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved without objection.

Speaker Batchelder welcomed Representative Stautberg to the Commission, filling in for Representative Huffman.

Speaker Batchelder noted the resignation of Commission member Joseph Rugola and indicated that the vacancy would be filled in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. He also announced that Mr. Walinski resigned as the Chair of the Organization and Administration committee and Mr. Cole agreed to take on the additional work load and chair that committee.

Co-Chair Sykes introduced Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to the Commission and invited her to present to the Commission. Chief Justice O'Connor shared

with the Commission several proposals she made earlier this year, a number of which require a constitutional change in order to implement. The Chief Justice answered questions posed by Commission members.

Speaker Batchelder announced that each committee had been asked to submit a written report from their July meeting to the Commission. Those reports were provided to each member in their folders. Without objection, the written reports of the committees were accepted.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Roger Beckett, Chair of the Public Education and Information Committee, to report on recommendations the committee made to the full Commission. Mr. Beckett discussed the open letter to the public that the committee asks the Co-Chairs to sign and also addressed the PSA script that the committee drafted and requests the Co-Chairs record for use on the website and on public television around the state. The Co-Chairs agreed to review the documents and produce a letter and PSA after that consultation.

Mr. Beckett reviewed the committee's recommendation in regards to hearing locations and committee testimony. Mr. Beckett also brought forth a proposal to revise the current rules of procedure and conduct.

Current Rule:

5(e) Members of the Commission, when speaking outside of the Commission about matters that are or could be within the jurisdiction of the Commission, will speak only for themselves and not for the Commission. In speaking outside Commission, members will not ascribe views or opinions to other individual members of the Commission.

Proposed Rule:

5(e) Members of the Commission, when speaking outside of the Commission about ~~matters that are or could be within the jurisdiction of the Commission~~ possible Commission recommendations, will speak only for themselves and not for the Commission. In speaking outside ~~the~~ Commission, members will not ascribe views or opinions to other individual members of the Commission. Commission members are encouraged to discuss the Commission's Constitutional review and revision process to seek public participation in the Commission's activities.

Speaker Kurfess moved to amend the rule to add “unless given authority by the Commission” in the third line of the rule. Senator Tavares seconded the motion and without objection the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Becket moved to adopt the amended rule and Senator Obhof seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion was accepted. The new rule will read:

Approved Rule:

5(e) Members of the Commission, when speaking outside of the Commission about possible Commission recommendations, will speak only for themselves and not for the Commission, unless authorized by the Commission to do so. In speaking outside the Commission, members will not ascribe views or opinions to other individual members of the Commission. Commission members are encouraged to discuss the Commission's Constitutional review and revision process to seek public participation in the Commission's activities.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Mr. Cole, Chair of the Organization and Administration Committee to discuss recommendations made by the committee to the Commission. The committee unanimously approved a hiring process for the Commission including the Senior Policy Advisor position, the Executive Director and additional Commission staff. Mr. Cole moved to adopt the hiring process as recommended by the committee and Speaker Kurfess seconded the motion. Without objection the motion was accepted.

Mr. Cole shared with the Commission a proposed budget that was unanimously approved by the Organization and Administration Committee. He asked members to review the proposed budget and indicated that the Commission would take the issue up at the September meeting.

Speaker Batchelder recognized Dean Steinglass for an update on his work for the Commission. Dean Steinglass indicated that he had been assisting the committee Chairs with acquiring presenters and crafting agendas. He asked the Chairs of the subject matter committees to build on the recommendation to identify obsolete provisions of the constitution and to identify research issues.

Speaker Batchelder asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. Seeing none, the Commission adjourned at 3:37pm.

/s/ William G. Batchelder

Co-chair
Representative William G. Batchelder
Speaker of the House

/s/ Vernon Sykes

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Representative Vernon Sykes
34th District