

4/29/09 Charter Commission Workshop

Peter Feeney Conference Room, 6pm

Members Present: Claude Morgan (co-chair), David Lunt, Steve Gorden, Kathleen Babeu, John Eder (late), Richard Feeney

Members Absent: Neil Jamieson, Meredith Burgess, Lisa Villa (co-chair)

Others Present: Elizabeth Trice (staff)

Minutes from 4/8/ workshop accepted (Lunt, Babeu, unanimous)

New website is up with feedback form.

Drafting

Morgan proposes to accept the language from 1982 charter draft as “framework”, treat as workable document in drafting process. This is an open and working document, we borrow freely from it, and edit freely, there will be a lot of give and take, and keep open to add and subtract. Motion by Gorden, Lunt

Discussion:

Morgan: the 1982 document moves county government towards strong central model; centralizing decision-making process with chief executive (county manager) like many towns and corporations have done. Allows county manager to find and fill posts as professional needs of organization dictates.

It questions the need for formal elected treasurer and registrar of deeds, which are currently allowed by state but state allows offices to be abolished if those tasks are filled appropriately.

1982 document also moves county towards having more representation – 7 commissioners instead of 3. By statute, county can have 5, 7 or 3. Would like to see language plainer, more accessible.

Feeney: We need to include the right of voters to change charter through amendments.

Gorden suggests breaking up document into sections for individuals or subcommittees to work on.

Babeu, Lunt would like to see whole group work through document at workshop

Approved (unanimous)

Budget

For May 27th, the following persons will be responsible for presenting budgets for each of the committees:

*Eder: Outreach

*Villa : Government Relations

*Morgan: Steering

*Jamieson: Drafting

*Gorden: Strategy

Should include travel, consulting, polling, food, anything included in the whole length of the project from now until completed referendum.

*Elizabeth will check for billing from Jensen-Baird.

*Elizabeth will check with NACO and National Civic League for standard budget numbers.

*Dick will get budget numbers for previous referendum.

Fundraising

It is permissible to create a Political Action Committee e.g. Friends of Charter Commission, would have to decide who would be the contact person for that. Application is easy- fill out form with Ethics Committee/Secretary of State.

Discussion of whether a PAC is necessary or appropriate.

Possibility of inviting small donations through website.

Outreach

*ALL: bring list of dates of events- eggs & issues, MMA event, GPCOG, Corridor coalitions, Casco Days, Cumberland Fair, town meetings etc.

*Eder will draft brochure or palmcard, businesscard: basic intro, mission, contact information (Feeney, Eder, unanimous)

Attendance

Gorden suggests that those who are chronically absent should be encouraged to attend to be replaced.

*Morgan will find out options from Secretary of State, and offer forum for discussion of attendance. (Feeney, Lunt, Unanimous)

Next Workshop: May 13th,

Agenda to include listing all dates, requirements, brochures, cards, surveys to be created, so budgets and timelines can be drafted for May 27th.

*ALL: For May 13th meeting, bring list of materials, deadlines, other projects (brochures etc), surveys, that should be created during course of project.

Next Public Meeting: May 27th. 6-8pm, County Courthouse.

Adjourned 7:55 (Feeney, Lunt, unanimous)