

5/27/09 Charter Commission Minutes

Members Present: Claude Morgan, (co-chair); Lisa Villa (co-chair), David Lunt, Steve Gordon, Kathleen Babeu.

Members Absent: John Eder, Dick Feeney, Neil Jamieson, Meredith Burgess

Others Present: Peter Crichton, County Manager; Elizabeth Trice, County Staff.

Quorum established.

Motion to approve minutes (March 25, April 29, and May 13), (Gordon, Lunt, unanimous)

Morgan presents short sample presentation.

*Morgan will email out text of presentation

Attendance Rule

Text provided and discussed. Rule is not retroactive.

Meredith Burgess has tendered resignation; Crichton encourages committee to retain Burgess as she has been in the legislature.

Morgan states that this policy is not about Burgess, and that Burgess has capacity to make huge contribution, that the committee will need all people involved, and that most legislators would have the same scheduling problems Burgess has had while the legislature is in session. Lunt also supports Burgess's participation.

Morgan points out that the attendance rule requires formal action.

Gorden suggests that Burgess's resignation is tabled (not accepted) until the next meeting

*Morgan will ask her to reconsider.

Friendly amendments (Morgan, Lunt seconded by Babeu, unanimous)

Rule adopted (Morgan, Villa, unanimous)

Attendance Rule Text

Any member of the Charter Commission, upon failing to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without a qualified and compelling reason, committed to text and addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, will be considered to have forfeited their duties and vacated their membership on the Commission.

The Commission may grant a leave of absence to any member who expects or finds an inability to fulfill responsibilities as a member of the Commission for three or more consecutive meetings. Such a request will be committed to text, submitted to the Secretary, and brought before the full body of the Commission for consideration.

The Chair of the Commission shall contact any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings and caution the member that termination of membership may be recommended to the Commission.

The Commission, by resolution, may declare a membership vacant if a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings.

Any member of the Charter Commission may submit such a resolution after an absence is confirmed, but only if the motion is submitted before or on the second public meeting following a member's third absence.

The resolution requires a simple majority for passage.

This Rule, which governed by Title 30-A, Chapter 11 §1322 (3) and all requirements above or amended, shall take effect May 27, 2009 and is not retroactive. No resolution may be brought forward by any member before the first public meeting of the Commission in July 2009.

Approval of RESOLUTION TO EXTEND TIME LIMITS
(Gordon, Villa Unanimous)

TEXT

WHEREAS, members of the Charter Commission request that Commissioners of Cumberland County extend the time limits for the preparation and submission of preliminary and final reports; and

WHEREAS, members of the Charter Commission firmly believe that residents of Cumberland County are best served by a full and thoughtful discussion about the future of county government; and

WHEREAS, members of the Charter Commission believe the best way to achieve this discussion is through a vigorous public-outreach program, which includes public hearings not anticipated by statutes governing the Charter process; and

WHEREAS, members of the Charter Commission firmly believe that public participation is essential to the preparation and submission of preliminary and final reports; and

WHEREAS, Title 30-A, Chapter 11 §1322, 5 D (1) authorizes the Commissioners of Cumberland County to extend the time limits of the Charter Commission "up to 24 months after the election of the Charter Commission";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Charter Commission humbly request that the Commissioners of Cumberland County extend the time limits for the preparation and submission of preliminary and final reports by the maximum amount of time allowed by law.

6:40 pm Public meeting ends, Workshop begins.

Discussion and editing of Charter Text

Adjourned 8pm. Next meeting June 10, 6-8, Feeney Room.