



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman
Rob Brinkman
DJ Ferguson
Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair
Armando R. Grundy
J. K. Irby, Chair
Joseph W. Little
AuBroncee S. Martin
John Martin
Bill Richards
Jim Stringfellow
Rod Tuttle
Lura W. Williams Martin
Ashley Wood
Guy York

County Staff:
Richelle Sucara
Deputy County Manager
Mary Lowy
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Alachua County
Charter Review
Commission
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June 24, 2010

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
County Administration Building
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to the Alachua County Charter the Charter Review Commission is pleased to deliver to you the proposed amendments or revisions to be submitted to the electorate. Each proposal was favorably voted upon by a majority of the entire membership of the Charter Review Commission as required by the Charter.

Since your appointment last fall we have worked diligently and considered many issues that were brought to our attention. The commission reached out to the public for ideas and comments by visiting each city within Alachua County, maintaining a web site, providing opportunity for input at all meetings, and using various media to keep the public informed. As required, we held three public hearings in order to hear from the public prior to making a final determination on each proposal. The level of public participation was unprecedented. In the final analysis, sixty six proposals were received. Many of the proposals were discussed at length. We had legal counsel advise us and assist us with development of ballot and amendment language.

We took our work seriously and feel that we were responsive to the concerns of our citizens. Attached you will find our report. We thank the Board of County Commissioners for this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. K. Irby", is written over the typed name below.

J. K. Irby, Chair

2009 - 2010
ALACHUA COUNTY
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
FINAL REPORT

June 30, 2010

Introduction

History and Duties

Alachua County's Home Rule Charter was approved by the electorate and became effective on January 1, 1987. The Charter provides for establishment of a Charter Review Commission (CRC) every ten years and specifies that the Charter Review Commission is to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The CRC is charged with the responsibility to review the charter and propose any amendments or revisions which may be advisable for placement on the general election ballot.

Member Selection Process

At its September 8, 2009 meeting, the Alachua County Commission appointed 15 members to the Charter Review Commission pursuant to 4.2B of the Home Rule Charter. Each county commissioner nominated three residents and the nominees were then appointed by vote of board. The first organizational meeting was conducted on September 24, 2009 and a Chair (J. K. Irby) and a Vice-Chair (Mitch Glaeser) were selected from among the membership of the CRC.

The following Alachua County residents were appointed:

Robert Ackerman is a business owner and lawyer. He is the president of Brasington's Trail Shop and has been a resident of Alachua County for twelve years. He also serves on the City of Gainesville Plan Board.

Robert Brinkman is a self-employed carpenter and has been a resident of Alachua County for thirteen years. He also serves as Chair of the Suwannee-St. Johns group of the Sierra Club, and on the MTPO/CAC Boards.

DJ Ferguson is employed by the Alachua County Public Safety Department. She is a member of the Florida Public Personnel Association and the National Forum for Black Public Administrations. She has lived in Alachua County for 18 years and brings twenty five years of local government experience to the commission. She served as staff liaison to the 1991-1992 and 1999-2000 Charter Review Commissions. She is a volunteer with Take Stock in Children and the Easter Seals/Altrusa House, and Pleasant Place.

Mitch Glaeser (Vice Chair) is a businessman and realtor. He served on the two previous Charter Review Commissions. He has lived in Alachua County throughout his life and is a volunteer with the Guardian Ad Litem program, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Crime Stoppers, and Gainesville Community Organization.

Armando R. Grundy-Gomes is an insurance claims adjuster/recovery specialist with Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Damage Recovery Unit. He has been a resident of Alachua County for three years and is an Army veteran. He is active in the community as a member of the African American Accountability Alliance, NAACP, 100 Black/Collegiate 100 Black Men, Florida Hispanic Chamber, and the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce.

J. K. Irby (Chair) is the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, County Recorder, County Treasurer and ex officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. He is a life long resident of Alachua County and active in civic and professional organizations.

Joseph W. Little is a Professor of Law at the University of Florida and lawyer. He is a former two-term member of the Gainesville City Commission. He has been a resident of Alachua County for forty-three years and has served on various city, county and state boards.

AuBroncee S. Martin is a lawyer and an assistant public defender employed by the Public Defender of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Martin has been a resident of Alachua County for fourteen years and is past president of the Eighth Judicial Bar Association, is Legal Community Chair for the African Accountability Alliance, and a Trustee at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. He is currently the Felony Division III Supervisor in the Public Defender's Office.

John Martin is a businessman and owner of Division 10 Distributors. He served on the Hawthorne City Commission for thirteen years, of which five years were as Mayor. Mr. Martin is a life long resident of Alachua County and has been active in community affairs serving as Chair of the County Transportation Committee, Rural Advisor to the MTPO, a member of the Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee, a member of the League of Cities, and with the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce.

Bill Richards is a self-employed consultant. Founder and director of Paddle Florida, Mr. Richards has been active in the community by serving on the Tourist Development Council, the Wild Spaces and Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee, the Gainesville Parks, Recreation & Open Space Board, Original Florida Tourism Task Force, and the Board of Directors for the St. Francis House. He has been a resident of Alachua County for twenty five years.

Jim Stringfellow is a retired business owner and retired USAF captain. He owned and managed Stringfellow Supply for many years. He is active with the United Way, Partnership for Strong Families, the Chamber of Commerce, and the University Kiwanis Club. Mr. Stringfellow has served on various boards and committees throughout the community and in organizations. He is a life-long resident of Alachua County and his roots go back to family members who were present in Alachua County from the time of statehood.

Rod Tuttle is officially retired but has been active volunteering with the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office. He has resided in Alachua County for six years.

Lura W. Williams Martin is retired but continues to be active with her family farm raising cattle and timber. She is a fifth generation Alachua County resident. Among the organizations she is active with are the Farm Bureau and the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

Ashley Wood is retired from IFAS at the University of Florida. He is a fourth generation Alachua County resident and is active as a member of the Alachua County Historical Commission, University City Kiwanis Club, Florida Historical Society, and Conservation Trust for Florida. Mr. Wood's family is a Florida Century Pioneer Farm Family and his great-grandfather established the Town of Evinston in Alachua County.

Guy York is a Vice President at Santa Fe College. Mr. York has resided in Alachua County for thirty five years and is active in professional and civic organizations.

Legal Counsel






The CRC solicited proposals to serve the CRC as their independent counsel from law firms within Alachua County and around Florida. Based upon the rankings, Nabors Giblin & Nickerson, P.A., Attorneys At Law were selected and Sarah Bleakley, Esq. was the attorney assigned to the CRC. Attorney Bleakley provided the CRC with written reviews with regard to the constitutionality of each proposal as requested along with suggested language for the ballot and proposed amendments.


Meetings

The CRC met monthly from September, 2009 through April, 2010. In addition, three public hearings were held the following dates: May 12, 2010; May 26, 2010; and June 9, 2010. A final regular meeting was held June 23, 2010. All meetings were well attended by CRC members and the public. Most meetings were broadcast live over Channel 12 public access television and all meeting agendas, backup materials, meeting minutes, and audio/video recordings were available via the CRC website. For minutes, see Appendix A.

Exploratory / Initial Idea Phase

The Idea Exploratory Phase included visits to all municipalities within Alachua County, soliciting input from citizens, reviewing the provisions of other Charters from other county governments, and extensive use of the CRC web site. Proposals received were numbered and copies were displayed on the web site as follows:

2009-10 Charter Review Commission List of Proposals and Dispositions			
Proposal Tracking Number	Proposal	Date Received	Correspondence
CRC-09-01 (1) CRC-09-01 (2) CRC-09-01 (3) CRC-09-01 (4) CRC-09-01 (5)	Elect BoCC on nonpartisan basis (5)	09/28/09 12/28/09 01/19/10 03/16/10 03/16/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-02	Elect Supervisor of Elections on nonpartisan basis	10/01/09	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-03 (1) CRC-09-03 (2) CRC-09-03 (3) CRC-09-03 (4) CRC-09-03 (5)	County & City referendum required to impose requirement on municipality (5)	10/09/09 10/09/09 10/09/09 01/27/10 01/29/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-04 (1) CRC-09-04 (2) CRC-09-04 (3) CRC-09-04 (4) CRC-09-04 (5) CRC-09-04 (6) CRC-09-04 (7)	Cap BOCC salary at average county income. (7)	10/21/09 12/28/09 01/15/10 01/15/10 01/15/10 01/28/10 03/16/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-05 (1) CRC-09-05 (2) CRC-09-05 (3) CRC-09-05 (4) CRC-09-05 (5) CRC-09-05 (6)	Impose BOCC term limits Two terms. (6)	10/21/09 12/28/09 01/19/10 01/19/10 01/28/10 03/16/10	
CRC-09-06 (1) CRC-09-06 (2) CRC-09-06 (3) CRC-09-06 (4) CRC-09-06 (5)	Merge the City of Gainesville and Alachua County governments into one GOV'T. (5)	10/21/09 10/21/09 02/10/10 03/16/10 03/16/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-07	BoCC to Appoint Constitutional Officers	10/28/09	
CRC-09-08	Require all county Depts to reflect county demographics	10/28/09	
CRC-09-09 (1) CRC-09-09 (2) CRC-09-09 (3)	Impose term limits on county offices – Two 4-year terms (5)	10/28/09 01/15/10	

CRC-09-09 (4) CRC-09-09 (5)		01/15/10 03/16/10 03/16/10	
CRC-09-10 CRC-09-10 (2)	All sales tax referenda to be held at general election only (2)	11/05/09 01/19/10	
CRC-09-11	BoCC salary to be set by voters	11/05/09	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-12 CRC-09-12 (2)	Unification of fire services (2)	11/05/09 01/19/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-13	BOCC Salary to be set by BOCC	12/28/09	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-14 CRC-09-14 (2)	Budget shall provide line-by-line consistency year-by-year (2)	12/28/09 01/19/10	
CRC-09-15	Require annual audit of county enterprise funds	12/28/09	
CRC-09-16 (1) CRC-09-16 (2) CRC-09-16 (3) CRC-09-16 (4) CRC-09-16 (5) CRC-09-16 (6) CRC-09-16 (7) CRC-09-16 (8)	BoCC Single-member districts and require districts to balance representation of representative populations (8)	12/28/09 12/28/09 01/14/10 01/15/10 01/15/10 01/19/10 01/19/10 01/19/10	 Legal Opinion of Independent Counsel
CRC-09-17	Limit county budget increase to cost of living increase	12/28/09	
CRC-09-18 (1) CRC-09-18 (2) CRC-09-18 (3)	Change the County-wide Voting for Alachua County Commissioners to District-Only Voting (3)	01/07/10 01/14/10 01/14/10	
CRC-09-19	BoCC may not amend or repeal ordinance adopted by initiative for five years	01/13/10	
CRC-09-20	Regulate operation of airboats	01/13/10	
CRC-09-21 (1) CRC-09-21 (2) CRC-09-21 (3)	Prohibit duplication of county programs if like function is performed by another governmental entity (3)	01/15/10 01/15/10 01/19/10	
CRC-09-22	Create office of County Clerk & Comptroller	01/19/10	
CRC-09-23	Replace Board of County Commissioners with Charter Commissioners	01/29/10	
CRC-09-24	Elected School Superintendent	02/17/10	
CRC-09-25	Chief Law Enforcement Officer to be appointed by County Manager and approved by the BoCC	03/24/10	

Narrowing of Proposals

The CRC adopted rules to facilitate the consideration of proposals and vetting of ideas. Each proposal receiving a majority vote of the CRC was referred to legal counsel for review and for ballot and amendment language drafting. The procedures used were as follows:

2009/2010

Alachua County Charter Review Commission Procedures:

Submission and consideration of proposed amendments:

1. Any member of the CRC, any citizen, or other interested party may submit to the Charter Review Commission (CRC) a proposed amendment to the Alachua County Charter. All proposals shall be in writing. Amendments shall be submitted to the CRC staff and/or may be proposed via the CRC web site.
2. The CRC staff shall compile a list of all ideas submitted for consideration and provide each member of the CRC with the list of proposals along with backup materials respectively as part of the agenda materials.

The Exploratory / Initial Idea Phase: Narrowing of Ideas:

1. Only proposals on the list of proposals as noted above shall be considered by the CRC for further discussion. A proposal may be placed before the CRC if a member makes a motion for the CRC to consider the proposal from the above list of proposals and the motion is properly seconded. The member's motion may combine two or more proposals on the list if their subject matter is the same.
2. Properly introduced motions may be debated and amended by the CRC pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order.
3. If during this initial phase a proposal (as amended) receives the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present, the proposal shall be submitted for legal review and research. Action by the CRC at this point does not necessarily imply that the proposal will be submitted to the voters for their consideration.
4. The Chair will provide for public input at each meeting of the CRC.

Drafting Phase:

1. If a proposal receives a favorable legal review by the CRC's counsel, and if he/she determines the CRC has the authority to propose the amendment, he/she shall draft the actual wording of the proposed amendment and ballot language for CRC consideration.

2. The CRC shall then consider the actual proposed amendment and ballot language. After consideration, the CRC shall vote whether or not to allow the proposal to move forward to the public hearing phase.
3. If the proposal receives a favorable vote of the CRC, the Chair shall place it on the agenda for the public hearings. If the proposal does not receive a favorable vote of the CRC, the proposal shall no longer be considered.

Public Hearing Phase and Final Report:

1. The CRC shall hold three public hearings. Only those proposals which have been favorably reviewed by counsel and received a favorable vote in the drafting phase of the CRC shall be considered.
2. At the conclusion of the final public hearing, the CRC shall consider the proposals for a final vote. Those proposals receiving a majority vote of the **entire** commission shall be forwarded to the BoCC in a final report requesting that the proposals be placed on the ballot.

When evaluating proposed amendments:

1. A proposed amendment must not be in conflict with the Constitution, statutes, or statutory preemption.
2. A proposed amendment should avoid specific dollar amounts that can only be changed by charter amendment.
3. A proposed amendment should not reference actual statute numbers.
4. A proposed amendment should not duplicate statute provisions.
5. A proposed amendment should avoid usurping the authority of the BoCC.
6. A proposed amendment should avoid matters that would be more appropriate as ordinances.
7. A proposed amendment should be clear, concise and understandable
8. A proposed amendment should only embrace one subject matter.
9. A proposed amendment cannot establish, amend or repeal the county budget, existing debt obligations, the comprehensive plan, or zoning or re-zoning of land.
10. Proposed amendments should be limited in number.

Drafting Phase

Attorney Bleakley provided draft language for all proposals as requested for CRC review. In doing so, she communicated with the League of Cities as well as other charter counties and Florida attorneys in order to provide the CRC with the best language possible.

Public Hearings

Three public hearings were held as required by the Alachua County Charter. Each public hearing was well attended by the public and many citizens commented. At each public hearing the CRC legal counsel explained the purpose of the public hearings and the status of the CRC. She also made a presentation regarding the proposals and provided a “Point Presentation” of suggested ballot language.

As previously stated, participation by the public was unprecedented and was much greater than any CRC had previously enjoyed. All public hearings were broadcast live over Channel 12 public access television on Cox Cable.

Ballot Recommendations

Following the final public hearing, six proposals received the votes of a majority of the CRC members as required by the Charter. The ballot and proposed charter amendment language for each of the proposed initiatives follow:

Question 1. Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances

Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida, be amended to reduce the number of electors required to petition to initiate county ordinances from seven (7) percent to five (5) percent of the total number of electors in the county as a whole in the last preceding general election?

Question 1

Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances

May 12, 2010

1 **A resolution proposing an amendment to the Legislative**
2 **Branch section of the Home Rule Charter; amending**
3 **subsection (H) of Section 2.2; reducing the number of electors**
4 **required to petition to initiate county ordinances from seven**
5 **(7) percent to five (5) percent of the total number of electors in**
6 **the county as a whole in the last preceding general election;**
7 **providing for referendum approval at the general election in**
8 **2010; providing effective dates.**

9
10 **Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,**
11 **Florida:**

12
13 Section 1. Subsection (H) of Section 2.2 of the Home Rule Charter of
14 Alachua County is amended to read:

15 Sec. 2.2. Legislative branch.

16 (H) *Initiative.*

17 (1) The electors of Alachua County shall have the right to initiate
18 county ordinances in order to establish new ordinances and to amend or repeal
19 existing ordinances upon petition by a number of electors qualified to vote equal
20 to five (5) ~~seven (7)~~ percent of their total number in the county as a whole in the
21 last preceding general election.

22 (2) The sponsor of an initiative ordinance shall, prior to obtaining any
23 signatures, submit the text of the proposed ordinance to the supervisor of

Question 1
Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances
May 12, 2010

1 elections, with the form on which signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the
2 approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements
3 of such form shall be specified by ordinance. The beginning date of any petition
4 drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of
5 the form on which signatures will be affixed, and said drive shall terminate one
6 hundred eighty (180) days after that date. In the event sufficient signatures are
7 not acquired during that one hundred eighty (180) day period, the petition
8 initiative shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be
9 carried over onto another identical or similar petition. The sponsor shall submit
10 signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections and upon submission shall
11 pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall within
12 forty-five (45) days verify the signatures thereon.

13 (3) Within sixty (60) days after the requisite number of names have
14 been verified by the supervisor of elections and reported to the county
15 commission, the county commission shall notice and hold a public hearing on the
16 proposed ordinance according to law and vote on it. If the county commission
17 fails to adopt the proposed ordinance, it shall, by resolution, call a referendum on
18 the question of the adoption of the proposed ordinance to be held at the next
19 general election occurring at least forty-five (45) days after the adoption of such
20 resolution. If the question of the adoption of the proposed ordinance is approved
21 by a majority of those registered electors voting on the question, the proposed
22 ordinance shall be declared by resolution of the county commission to be
23 enacted and shall become effective on the date specified in the ordinance, or, if

Question 1
Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances
May 12, 2010

1 not so specified, on January 1 of the succeeding year. The county commission
2 shall not amend or repeal an ordinance adopted by initiative for a period of one
3 (1) year after the effective date of such ordinance.

4 (4) The right to initiate county ordinances shall not include ordinances
5 establishing, amending or repealing the county budget, existing debt obligations,
6 the comprehensive plan of the county, or the zoning or re-zoning of land.

7 Section 2. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
8 electors at the November 2, 2010 general election:

9 **Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances.**

10 Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida, be amended to reduce
11 the number of electors required to petition to initiate county
12 ordinances from seven (7) percent to five (5) percent of the total
13 number of electors in the county as a whole in the last preceding
14 general election?

15 YES for approval

16 NO for rejection

17
18
19 Section 3. Effective Dates. This resolution shall take effect upon approval
20 by a majority of the electors voting in the November 2, 2010 general election,
21 provided that section 2 shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of the board
22 of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph (B)(5) Section 4.2 of the
23 Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

Question 2. Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative

Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida, be amended to extend from one year to five years the prohibition against the board of county commissioners from amending or repealing an ordinance approved by citizens initiative, and providing that during the second through fifth years, such an ordinance may be amended or repealed by the board of county commissioners by an affirmative vote of at least four of the five county commissioners?

**Question 2 Revised
Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to
Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative
June 15, 2010**

1 A resolution proposing an amendment to the Legislative
2 Branch section of the Home Rule Charter; amending
3 subsection (H) of Section 2.2, relating to citizen initiatives for
4 the adoption of an ordinance; revising the one year
5 prohibition against the county commission amending or
6 repealing an ordinance approved by a citizen initiative;
7 prohibiting the amendment or repeal of an ordinance approved
8 by citizens initiative for five years after its effective date;
9 providing an exception that during the second through fifth
10 years, such an ordinance may be amended or repealed by the
11 board of county commissioners by an affirmative vote of at
12 least four of the five county commissioners; providing for
13 referendum approval at the general election in 2010; providing
14 effective dates.

15
16 Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,
17 Florida:

18
19 Section 1. Subsection (H) of Section 2.2 of the Home Rule Charter of
20 Alachua County is amended to read:

21 Sec. 2.2. Legislative branch.

22 (H) *Initiative.*

Question 2 Revised
Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to
Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative
June 15, 2010

1 (1) The electors of Alachua County shall have the right to initiate
2 county ordinances in order to establish new ordinances and to amend or repeal
3 existing ordinances upon petition by a number of electors qualified to vote equal
4 to seven (7) percent of their total number in the county as a whole in the last
5 preceding general election.

6 (2) The sponsor of an initiative ordinance shall, prior to obtaining any
7 signatures, submit the text of the proposed ordinance to the supervisor of
8 elections, with the form on which signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the
9 approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements
10 of such form shall be specified by ordinance. The beginning date of any petition
11 drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of
12 the form on which signatures will be affixed, and said drive shall terminate one
13 hundred eighty (180) days after that date. In the event sufficient signatures are
14 not acquired during that one hundred eighty (180) day period, the petition
15 initiative shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be
16 carried over onto another identical or similar petition. The sponsor shall submit
17 signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections and upon submission shall
18 pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall within
19 forty-five (45) days verify the signatures thereon.

20 (3) Within sixty (60) days after the requisite number of names have
21 been verified by the supervisor of elections and reported to the county
22 commission, the county commission shall notice and hold a public hearing on the

Question 2 Revised
Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to
Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative
June 15, 2010

1 proposed ordinance according to law and vote on it. If the county commission
2 fails to adopt the proposed ordinance, it shall, by resolution, call a referendum on
3 the question of the adoption of the proposed ordinance to be held at the next
4 general election occurring at least forty-five (45) days after the adoption of such
5 resolution. If the question of the adoption of the proposed ordinance is approved
6 by a majority of those registered electors voting on the question, the proposed
7 ordinance shall be declared by resolution of the county commission to be
8 enacted and shall become effective on the date specified in the ordinance, or, if
9 not so specified, on January 1 of the succeeding year. The county commission
10 shall not amend or repeal an ordinance adopted by initiative for a period of five
11 (5) years ~~one (1) year~~ after the effective date of such ordinance; except that
12 during the second through fifth years, such an ordinance may be amended or
13 repealed by the board of county commissioners by an affirmative vote of at least
14 four of the five county commissioners.

15 (4) The right to initiate county ordinances shall not include ordinances
16 establishing, amending or repealing the county budget, existing debt obligations,
17 the comprehensive plan of the county, or the zoning or re-zoning of land.

18 Section 2. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
19 electors at the 2010 general election:

20 **Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to Amend or**
21 **Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative.**

Question 2 Revised
Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to
Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative
June 15, 2010

1 Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida, be amended to extend
2 from one year to five years the prohibition against the board of
3 county commissioners from amending or repealing an ordinance
4 approved by citizens initiative, and providing that during the second
5 through fifth years, such an ordinance may be amended or
6 repealed by the board of county commissioners by an affirmative
7 vote of at least four of the five county commissioners?

8
9 YES for approval _____

10 NO for rejection _____

11
12 Section 3. Effective Dates. This resolution shall take effect upon approval
13 by a majority of the electors voting in the November 2, 2010 general election,
14 provided that section 2 shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of the board
15 of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph (B)(5) Section 4.2 of the
16 Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions to the Alachua County Home Rule Charter; words underlined are additions to it.

Question 3. Require Both County and Municipal Elector Approval of Charter Amendments Affecting Certain Municipal Power

Shall the Alachua County, Florida, charter be amended to require a future charter amendment limiting municipal power, which is not otherwise subject to Florida constitution's dual referendum requirement, shall take effect within or in regard to a municipality only if the amendment is approved by a majority of Alachua County electors and also approved by a majority of electors in that municipality, except when otherwise provided in a charter amendment or by the Legislature?

**Question 3 Further Revised
Require Both County and Municipal Elector Approval of
Charter Amendments Affecting Municipal Power
June 15, 2010**

1 **A resolution proposing an amendment to the Home Rule**
2 **Charter Amendment section of the Home Rule Charter;**
3 **amending Section 4.2, relating to home rule charter**
4 **amendments to add a new subsection (D); providing that**
5 **certain charter amendments approved after January 1, 2011**
6 **that limit certain power of a municipality shall be effective in**
7 **every municipality except those whose electors do not**
8 **approve the amendment; providing exceptions; providing for**
9 **referendum approval at the general election in 2010; providing**
10 **effective dates.**
11
12 **Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,**
13 **Florida:**
14
15 Section 1. Subsection (D) is added to Section 4.2 of the Home Rule
16 Charter of Alachua County to read:
17 Sec. 4.2. Home rule charter amendments.
18 (D) Home Rule Charter Amendments Affecting Municipal Power.
19 Effective January 1, 2011, an amendment adopted pursuant to this charter that
20 limits a power of a municipality, which amendment is not otherwise subject to the
21 dual referendum requirement pursuant to Article VIII, section 4, Florida
22 Constitution, shall be effective within or in regard to a municipality, except that it

**Question 3 Further Revised
Require Both County and Municipal Elector Approval of
Charter Amendments Affecting Municipal Power
June 15, 2010**

1 shall not be effective within or in regard to a municipality where a majority of the
2 electors voting in the referendum in that municipality do not approve the
3 amendment. Provided however, such an amendment proposed pursuant to this
4 charter may have county-wide effect, including those municipalities whose
5 electors do not approve the amendment when the amendment expressly
6 declares that it be effective county-wide and the proposing charter review
7 commission, board of county commissioners or citizen initiative petition sponsor
8 has determined that the county-wide amendment fulfills an important county
9 purpose. Provided further however, the limitation on county-wide effectiveness
10 of a charter amendment shall not supersede an inconsistent special law
11 approved by the electors or a general law authorizing the adoption of a charter
12 amendment preempting a municipal power to the county.

13 Section 2. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
14 electors at the November 2, 2010 general election:

**Require Both County and Municipal Elector Approval of
Charter Amendments Affecting Certain Municipal Power.**

17 Shall the Alachua County, Florida, charter be amended to require a
18 future charter amendment limiting municipal power, which is not
19 otherwise subject to Florida constitution's dual referendum
20 requirement, shall take effect within or in regard to a municipality
21 only if the amendment is approved by a majority of Alachua County
22

**Question 3 Further Revised
Require Both County and Municipal Elector Approval of
Charter Amendments Affecting Municipal Power
June 15, 2010**

1 electors and also approved by a majority of electors in that
2 municipality, except when otherwise provided in a charter
3 amendment or by the Legislature?

4
5 YES for approval

6 NO for rejection

7
8 Section 4. Effective Dates. This resolution shall take effect on January 1,
9 2011 if approved by a majority of the electors voting in the November 2, 2010
10 general election; provided that section 2 shall take effect upon adoption by
11 resolution of the board of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph
12 (B)(5), Section 4.2 of the Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions to the Alachua County Home Rule Charter; words underlined are additions to it.

Question 4. Replacing the Board of County Commissioners with Board of Charter Commissioners

Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida be amended effective November 16, 2010 to replace the board of county commissioners with a board of charter commissioners, transferring all the powers, duties and functions of the board of county commissioners to a board of charter commissioners which shall be the legislative and the governing body of the county and allowing for the further amendment to the charter posed in question 5?

**Question 4 Revised
Replacing the Board of County Commissioners
with a Board of Charter Commissioners
June 15, 2010**

1 **A resolution proposing an amendment to the Legislative**
2 **Branch section of the Home Rule Charter; amending Section**
3 **2.2; replacing the board of county commissioners as**
4 **governing body of the county with a board of charter**
5 **commissioners; transferring all the powers, duties and**
6 **functions of the board of county commissioners to the board**
7 **of charter commissioners; deleting obsolete provisions;**
8 **providing directions to charter reviser; providing for transition**
9 **to the board of charter commissioners effective November 16,**
10 **2010; providing for referendum approval at the general**
11 **election in 2010; providing effective dates.**

12
13 **Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,**
14 **Florida:**

15
16 Section 1. Subsections (A), (B) and (C), of Section 2.2 of the Home Rule
17 Charter of Alachua County are amended, and subsection (D) is added, to read:

18 Sec. 2.2. Legislative branch.

19 (A) *The ~~charter county~~ commission.* The governing body of the county
20 shall be a board of charter county commissioners composed of five (5) members
21 serving staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one (1) commissioner
22 for each of the five (5) ~~charter county~~ commission districts established pursuant

Question 4 Revised
Replacing the Board of County Commissioners
with a Board of Charter Commissioners
June 15, 2010

1 to general law and they shall be elected on a countywide basis by the electors of
2 the county. ~~Each candidate for the office of county commissioner shall reside~~
3 ~~within the district from which such candidate seeks election at the time of~~
4 ~~qualifying to run for that office, and during~~ During the term of office each
5 commissioner shall reside in the district from which such commissioner ran for
6 office, provided that any commissioner who is removed from a district by
7 redistricting may continue to serve during the balance of the term of office.

8 (B) *Redistricting.* ~~Charter County~~ commission district boundaries shall
9 be changed only after notice and a public hearing as provided by general law.

10 (C) *Salaries and other compensation.* Salaries and other
11 compensation of the ~~charter county~~ commissioners shall be set by county
12 ordinance and shall be the same as those set by general law for the county
13 commissioners of noncharter counties.

14 (D) *Transition to Board of Charter Commissioners.* Effective November
15 16, 2010, the board of county commissioners shall be replaced by a board of
16 charter commissioners and all the powers, duties and functions of the board of
17 county commissioners shall be transferred to the board of charter
18 commissioners.

19 Section 2. Charter Revision Directions. Every place the term "county
20 commissioner" appears in the Home Rule Charter, it shall be changed to the term
21 "charter commissioner".

Question 4 Revised
Replacing the Board of County Commissioners
with a Board of Charter Commissioners
June 15, 2010

1 Section 3. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
2 electors at the November 2, 2010 general election:

3 **Replacing the Board of County Commissioners with a Board of**
4 **Charter Commissioners.**

5 Shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida be amended effective
6 November 16, 2010 to replace the board of county commissioners
7 with a board of charter commissioners, transferring all the powers,
8 duties and functions of the board of county commissioners to a
9 board of charter commissioners which shall be the legislative and
10 the governing body of the county and allowing for the further
11 amendment to the charter posed in question 5?

12
13 YES for approval _____

14 NO for rejection _____

15
16 Section 4. Effective Dates. This resolution shall take effect on November
17 16, 2010 upon approval by a majority of the electors voting in the November 2,
18 2010 general election, provided that section 3 shall take effect upon adoption by
19 resolution of the board of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph
20 (B)(5) Section 4.2 of the Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions to the Alachua County Home Rule Charter; words underlined are additions to it.

Question 5. Setting the Salaries of the Board of Charter Commissioners

If question 4 is adopted, shall the charter of Alachua County, Florida, be amended to require the salaries of members of the board of charter commissioners be set by ordinance rather than be the same as the salaries for county commissioners in non-charter counties as set by the Legislature?

Question 5 Revised
Setting the Salaries of the Board of Charter Commissioners
June 17, 2010

1 **A resolution proposing an amendment to the Legislative**
2 **Branch section of the Home Rule Charter; amending Section**
3 **2.2; replacing the board of county commissioners as**
4 **governing body of the county with a board of charter**
5 **commissioners; transferring all the powers, duties and**
6 **functions as governing body of the county of the board of**
7 **county commissioners to the board of charter commissioners;**
8 **deleting obsolete provisions; providing directions to charter**
9 **reviser; providing for transition to the board of charter**
10 **commissioners effective November 16, 2010; providing for**
11 **limitations on the salaries of the members of the board of**
12 **charter commissioners; requiring the board to set the salary of**
13 **members by ordinance; providing for referendum approval at**
14 **the general election in 2010; providing effective dates.**

15
16 **Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,**
17 **Florida:**

18
19 Section 1. Contingent upon the adoption of question 4 by the electors at
20 the November 2, 2010 general election, Subsections (A), (B) and (C), of Section
21 2.2 of the Home Rule Charter of Alachua County are amended, and subsection
22 (D) is added, to read:

Question 5 Revised
Setting the Salaries of the Board of Charter Commissioners
June 17, 2010

1 Sec. 2.2. Legislative branch.

2 (A) *The ~~charter county~~ commission.* The governing body of the county
3 shall be a board of ~~charter county~~ commissioners composed of five (5) members
4 serving staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one (1) commissioner
5 for each of the five (5) ~~charter county~~ commission districts established pursuant
6 to general law and they shall be elected on a countywide basis by the electors of
7 the county. ~~Each candidate for the office of county commissioner shall reside~~
8 ~~within the district from which such candidate seeks election at the time of~~
9 ~~qualifying to run for that office, and during~~ During the term of office each
10 commissioner shall reside in the district from which such commissioner ran for
11 office, provided that any commissioner who is removed from a district by
12 redistricting may continue to serve during the balance of the term of office.

13 (B) *Redistricting. Charter County* commission district boundaries shall
14 be changed only after notice and a public hearing as provided by general law.

15 (C) *Salaries and other compensation.* Salaries and other
16 compensation of the ~~charter~~ commissioners shall be set by county ordinance ~~the~~
17 ~~same as those as set by general law for the county commissioners of noncharter~~
18 ~~counties.~~

19 (D) Transition to Board of Charter Commissioners. Effective November
20 16, 2010, the board of county commissioners shall be replaced with a board of
21 charter commissioners and all the powers, duties and functions of the board of

Question 5 Revised
Setting the Salaries of the Board of Charter Commissioners
June 17, 2010

1 county commissioners shall be transferred to the board of charter
2 commissioners.

3 Section 2. Charter Revision Directions. Every place the term "county
4 commissioner" appears in the Home Rule Charter, it shall be changed to the term
5 "charter commissioner".

6 Section 3. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
7 electors at the 2010 general election:

8 **Setting the Salaries of the Board of Charter Commissioners.**

9 If question 4 is adopted, shall the charter of Alachua County,
10 Florida, be amended to require the salaries of members of the
11 board of charter commissioners be set by ordinance rather than be
12 the same as the salaries for county commissioners in non-charter
13 counties as set by the Legislature?

14
15 YES for approval

16 NO for rejection

17
18 Section 4. Effective Dates. If question 4 is approved by the County
19 electors, this resolution shall take effect on November 16, 2010 upon approval by
20 a majority of the electors voting in the November 2, 2010 general election,
21 provided that section 3 shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of the board
22 of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph (B)(5) Section 4.2 of the
23 Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

**Question 6. Providing non-partisan elections of constitutional officers
by abolishing them and replacing them with charter officers**

Shall the Alachua County, Florida, charter be amended to abolish the existing constitutional offices and officers of sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, clerk of the circuit court and supervisor of elections; have all the powers, duties and functions transferred to charter offices with the same respective names and duties; and have the election of such charter officers be chosen by the electors in a non-partisan election, instead of one indicating a political party affiliation?

**Question 6-1
Abolishing constitutional officers and replacing with
charter officers elected in a nonpartisan election
June 17, 2010**

1 **A resolution proposing an amendment to the elected county**
2 **constitutional offices section of the Home Rule Charter;**
3 **amending Section 3.1; abolishing the constitutional offices of**
4 **the sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, clerk of the circuit**
5 **court and supervisor of elections; transferring all the powers,**
6 **duties and functions of such constitutional offices to charter**
7 **offices of identical names; providing for the election of the**
8 **charter officers of the sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector,**
9 **clerk of the circuit court and supervisor of elections by the**
10 **electors in a non-partisan election; providing for referendum**
11 **approval at the general election in 2010; providing effective**
12 **dates.**

13
14 **Be it resolved by the Charter Review Commission of Alachua County,**
15 **Florida:**

16
17 Section 1. Section 3.1 of the Home Rule Charter of Alachua County is
18 amended to read:

19 Sec. 3.1. Elected county constitutional offices.

20 The offices of sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, clerk of the circuit
21 court and supervisor of elections shall be abolished and replaced with charter
22 officers of the same respective names and ~~remain as~~ be chosen by the electors

Question 6-1
Abolishing constitutional officers and replacing with
charter officers elected in a nonpartisan election
June 17, 2010

1 in a non-partisan election. The charter ~~elected constitutional~~ officers and the
2 powers, duties and functions shall not be altered by this home rule charter. The
3 charter ~~constitutional~~ officers shall perform their respective executive and
4 administrative functions as specified by law for constitutional officers of the same
5 name.

6 Section 2. Referendum. The following question shall be presented to the
7 electors at the November 2, 2010 general election:

8 **Providing non-partisan elections of constitutional officers by**
9 **abolishing them and replacing them with charter officers.**

10 Shall the Alachua County, Florida, charter be amended to abolish
11 the existing constitutional offices and officers of sheriff, property
12 appraiser, tax collector, clerk of the circuit court and supervisor of
13 elections; have all the powers, duties and functions transferred to
14 charter offices with the same respective names and duties; and
15 have the election of such charter officers be chosen by the electors
16 in a non-partisan election, instead of one indicating a political party
17 affiliation?

18
19 YES for approval
20 NO for rejection

21

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions to the Alachua County Home Rule Charter; words underlined are additions to it.

Question 6-1
Abolishing constitutional officers and replacing with
charter officers elected in a nonpartisan election
June 17, 2010

1 Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect upon approval
2 by a majority of the electors voting in the November 2, 2010 general election,
3 provided that section 2 shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of the board
4 of county commissioners in accordance with Paragraph (B)(5) Section 4.2 of the
5 Alachua County Home Rule Charter.

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Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Rob Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice
Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
Richelle Sucara
Deputy County Manager

Alachua County
Charter Review
Commission
Attn: Richelle Sucara
P.O. Box 2877
Gainesville, FL 32602

Telephone:
352-374-5210
Fax:
352-338-7363

Meeting Minutes - Thursday, September 24, 2009

CRC Members Present: Robert Brinkman, D.J. Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. "Buddy" Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Ashley Wood, Lura Williams Martin, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Robert Ackerman

Among Others Present: County Manager Randall H. Reid, County Attorney David W. Wagner, Deputy County Manager Richelle Sucara, Advisory Board Coordinator Mary Lowry, County Intern Greg Feldman, Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers (Gainesville).

Next meeting: October 21, 2009, 5:30 PM, Grace Knight Conference Room

1. Welcome – 00:00 on audio

The Charter Review Commission members were welcomed by County Manager Randall H. Reid. Manager Reid then introduced staff, including Deputy County Manager Richelle Sucara and Intern Greg Feldman.

2. Introductions of Members and Staff

Deputy County Manager Richelle Sucara invited the members to introduce themselves. Each member present introduced themselves and provided some information as to their background.

3. Election of Chair/Vice Chair – 14:00 on audio

Richelle Sucara opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Charter Review Commission. Mitch Glaeser nominated J.K. "Buddy" Irby as Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Armando Grundy-Gomes then nominated Mitch Glaeser as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and also passed unanimously.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

4. Adoption of the Agenda – 15:30 on audio

The agenda was discussed and adopted.

5. Sunshine Law Q&A – 16:25 on audio

County Attorney Dave Wagner gave a presentation on Florida's Sunshine Law as it relates to appointed bodies.

6. Selection Process for CRC Attorney – 57:40 on audio

The Chair and County Attorney Wagner explained the need for professional legal service. After discussion, Mr. Wagner provided the Commission a list of the names of five attorneys and/or firms that had expressed a willingness to serve as independent counsel for the Charter Review Commission.

Joseph Little moved that the Chair write to each attorney on the list inviting them to make a proposal, including an hourly rate, in time for the next meeting.

Armando Grundy-Gomes made a motion to table the first motion due to the short timeframe as the next meeting date had been suggested as October 8th. D.J. Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion to table failed 2-12.

There was further discussion concerning the ability of the attorneys to respond in the designated timeframe.

The motion passed 12-2.

7. Meeting Rules & Procedures – 50:00 – 57:40, 1:10:53 – 1:57:00

The Chair presented a draft commission procedure outline with the intent that the draft would be discussed at the next meeting.

A general discussion followed regarding community outreach and contacting local officials.

Joseph Little moved that the Chair send letters to all elected officials, including constitutional officers and the school board, stating that this commission has begun its work, stating the Commission's mandate, and requesting suggestions.

A discussion regarding the Commissions outreach and desire for community input followed. Mr. Little clarified for the Commission that his motion does not preclude going before other groups and asking for an official communication is a starting place.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Armando Grundy-Gomes moved that CRC members go out to smaller municipalities and also meet with civic groups. The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Grundy-Gomes after discussion.

Jim Stringfellow suggested including the Judiciary in the motion to contact elected officials with a letter. County Attorney Wagner recommended against it due to the appearance of or possible conflicts.

Following further discussion regarding community outreach, Ashley Wood moved that the CRC work with County staff to develop a web site to keep the public informed about meetings and the work of the Commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting Dates:

The chair provided members with a suggestion of possible meeting dates. Rob Brinkman moved that the Commission meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Armando Grundy-Gomes seconded. The motion passed with one 'No' vote.

Joseph Little asked that staff send a list of meetings to all members when they have been scheduled (ASAP).

There was a general agreement that if additional meetings were necessary, they would be scheduled 'as needed'. In addition, members requested that backup information for a meeting be provided in advance of the meeting via email and that printed documents also be made available at the meetings. County staff assured the members that they would provide the materials as requested.

D.J. Ferguson mentioned that the time of the meetings had not been established. The Chair indicated that the Commission would meet at 5:30 p.m. and it was generally agreed upon.

Ashley Wood moved that audio files of the meetings be made available on the web site. Manager Reid indicated that both video and audio could be provided, with constraints. Mr. Wood enlarged his motion to include all means of recording be made available to the public and archived for the record. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes - Thursday, October 21, 2009

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
Richelle Sucara
Deputy County Manager

Alachua County
Charter Review
Commission
Attn: Richelle Sucara
P.O. Box 2877
Gainesville, FL 32602

Telephone:
352-374-5210
Fax:
352-338-7363

CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, D.J. Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Lura Williams Martin, Bill Richards

Among Others Present: County Manager Randall H. Reid, Advisory Board Coordinator Mary Lowry, Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and adopted as submitted with the addition of item 4.d: Distribution of memo by Joe Little titled "Alachua County Charter Review Commission".

2. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2009

Joe Little moved that the September 24, 2009, minutes be accepted as presented with one correction: Mr. Wood's name was misspelled. The motion was agreed to.

3. Announcements

The Chair reported that, per Commission instructions that:

- a. He had written all municipalities, the constitutional officers, and the school board regarding the fact that the CRC is in the process of reviewing the County Charter to recommend changes and encouraged their participation.
- b. He had written the five prospective attorneys requesting their proposal for professional legal service.
- c. The CRC web site is ready to be launched. Note: The web site was discussed and the consensus of the CRC was that the web site should include biographic information regarding the CRC members.

d. Joe Little had provided the Commission a paper regarding charter government and the chair recommended it to all members.

4. Meeting Rules & Procedures

Robert Brinkman moved the procedures as presented except that the commission's deliberations would be pursuant to The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (Sturgis). A general discussion followed regarding the proposed procedures.

Mitch Glaeser moved to amend the motion and replace "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (Sturgis)" with Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The amendment was agreed to.

The main motion as amended was discussed and passed unanimously.

5. Work Plan:

The chair provided members with a work plan to be used only as a guide or roadmap for future commission work. After discussion, the commission requested that the chair develop a work plan with more detail including dates to be used as a planning tool by the commission. Without objection, the chair indicated that he and county staff would develop a more detailed plan and present it at the next meeting.

6. Consideration of Legal Counsel Proposals

The chair reported that four law firms had responded to the CRC's invitation to provide a proposal for professional legal counsel for the CRC. The chair indicated that the four proposals were provided to members as part of their agenda packet and all members indicated that they had received the information. It was generally agreed that all four were outstanding proposals and that we were fortunate to have such qualified firms to choose from. The members were then asked to rank the proposals.

Ashley Wood moved that the chair open negotiations with the top ranked firm to provide legal counsel to the commission and that should the chair and top ranked firm fail to come to terms, the chair would then move to the second ranked firm and open negotiations with that firm. (This process would continue until a contract was secured).

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Charter Amendment Proposals Received

The chair announced that six proposals have been received. Each proposal has been assigned a tracking number. Copies of the proposals along with a listing of the proposals were or have been provided to the members.

8. Future Meetings

The chair announced that the next meeting of the CRC would be Monday, November 16, 2009. In addition, no meeting is scheduled for December.

9. Outreach

The commission discussed at length what the CRC's public outreach effort should be.

Following the discussion, Armando Grundy-Gomes moved:

- i. That the CRC develop "Hot Teams" made up of approximately three members each and that the Hot teams make presentations to the several municipalities and the Board of County Commissioners respectively.
- ii. That the members may make presentations to civic clubs and community organizations and that a list all presentations be maintained by staff.
- iii. That the chair work with the County Communications Office to publicize the CRC and the fact that all citizens are welcome to provide proposals or information for CRC consideration.

During the discussion, members were reminded that presentations may fall under the open meetings law whenever two or more members attended a presentation. It was agreed that all such meetings must be properly advertised.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment:

Next meeting: Monday, November 16, 2009, 5:30 PM, Grace Knight Conference Room

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Monday, November 16, 2009

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

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Guy York

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352-374-5210
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352-338-7363

CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Lura Williams Martin, John Martin

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and adopted as submitted.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2009

Joe Little moved that the October 21, 2009 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

3. Announcements

The Chair reported that the web site is up and running. All proposals and backup materials are now listed on the web site.

4. Consideration of Work Plan

As requested by the CRC, the Chair distributed with the agenda a Gantt Chart outlining the work plan for the CRC. The Chair briefly reviewed the chart.

5. Re-vote on professional legal counsel proposals.

The Chair announced that an audit of the ballots from the October 21, 2009, meeting found that there was a tie between the top two firms.

DJ Ferguson moved that the CRC decide between only the top two choices which were tied after the first balloting. The motion was agreed to.

Therefore, new ballots were distributed and counted. Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson was selected as the firm the Commission wishes to provide legal

counsel. Note: At the October 21, 2009, CRC meeting, the Commission had authorized the Chair to contract with the top ranked firm.

6. Legal review of Alachua County's Home Rule Charter:

County Attorney Dave Wagner reviewed the history of the Charter and led a discussion regarding various charter elements.

Armando Grundy-Gomes moved that legal counsel review all proposals received and provide a short analysis prior to the January meeting regarding the constitutionality and authority of the CRC to move forward with regard to each proposal respectively.

7. Other business:

The chair solicited volunteers to serve on the "Hot Teams" to make official visits to all the cities within Alachua County.

8. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for January 20, 2010.

9. Update on proposals to be forwarded for January consideration.

See Item 6

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
Richelle Sucara
Deputy County Manager

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Commission
Attn: Richelle Sucara
P.O. Box 2877
Gainesville, FL 32602

Telephone:
352-374-5210
Fax:
352-338-7363

CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Ashley Wood

CRC Members Absent: Guy York

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2009.

Jim Stringfellow moved that the November 16, 2009 minutes be accepted as presented. DJ Ferguson recommended a grammatical correction that was agreed to without objection. The motion to approve the minutes was agreed to.

2. Update on list of charter amendment proposal received

Staff distributed agenda packets along with an addendum of recently received proposals.

3. Introduction of Sarah Bleakley, Legal Counsel to the CRC

Attorney Sarah Bleakley was introduced to the commission by the chair.

4. Review of Sunshine Law

Attorney Bleakley reviewed with the commission the legal requirements of the state's public meeting law or Sunshine law. The attorney reminded the members of the importance of the law and of the consequences should there be a violation.

5. Discussion and review of proposals with legal counsel

Attorney Bleakley discussed her legal review of constitutional and statutory provisions with regard to county charters. She specifically reviewed with the CRC proposals addressing nonpartisan elections and Board of County Commission compensation. The commission discussed various charter elements with Attorney Bleakley.

Armando Grundy-Gomes moved that the attorney be requested to provide a legal review as to whether or not the Board of County Commissioners could be made Charter Officers thereby changing their status under the constitution and laws of Florida.

Robert Brinkman moved that the request include the five constitutional officers.

The amendment was not agreed to.

The main motion was not agreed to.

A general discussion followed regarding various proposals.

6. Consideration of proposals

Due to time restraints, the chair did not entertain motions regarding proposals and no proposals were voted on.

7. City visit schedule

The chair reviewed the schedule of city visits and the recommended talking points. The commission discussed the visits with input from Attorney Bleakley.

8. Distribution of 2010 calendar

The 2010 calendar was distributed in the agenda packets

9. Other Business

10. General Comments

The chair recognized citizens and three citizens addressed the CRC on various subjects.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
Richelle Sucara
Deputy County Manager
Mary Lowry
Support Staff
Greg Feldman
Intern

Alachua County
Charter Review
Commission
Attn: Richelle Sucara
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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Ashley Wood

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The chair entertained comments from the members and introduced city officials in the audience.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and adopted as submitted.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2010

Joe Little moved that the January 20, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

3. Update on list of charter amendment proposals received.

The Chair reported that the web now lists groups of 24 proposals. The Chair also recognized the county support staff for maintaining the web site and for their work on behalf of the commission.

4. Legal Counsel: Discussion of charter issues regarding cities, consolidation, merger, transfer or limitation of service, function, power or authority of a city.

Attorney Sarah Bleakley reviewed her letter of February 16, 2010, to the commission with regard to proposals regarding cities. A general discussion followed.

5. Comments by official representatives of cities within Alachua County regarding the County Charter and proposals by municipalities.

The Chair recognized officials from the League of Cities and cities within Alachua County. Following comments and discussion, the Chair asked that the cities have their attorneys prepare comments and send them to the commission for consideration.

6. Consideration of proposals: “Straw Votes” to prioritize proposals.

1. **Rob Brinkman moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the charter by adding to *Sec. 2.2 (H)(3) Initiative* as follows:

“The county commission shall not amend or repeal an ordinance adopted by initiative for a period of one (1) year after the effective date of such ordinance and in addition, may not repeal or amend such ordinance except by unanimous vote for a period of five (5) years after the effective date of such ordinance.”

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. 14 Yes – 0 No

2. **Joe Little moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by amending to *Sec. 2.2 (H)(1) Initiative* as follows:

“The electors of Alachua County shall have the right to initiate county ordinances in order to establish new ordinances and to amend or repeal existing ordinances upon petition by a number of electors qualified to vote equal to ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) percent of their total number in the county as a whole in the last preceding general election.”

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. 13 Yes – 1 No

3. **Armando Grundy-Gomes** moved that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by addition of the following:

“The county shall not duplicate functions performed by another governmental agency.”

There being no second, the motion was not considered.

4. **Rod Tuttle moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding to *Section 2.2 (A) The County Commission* as follows:

“Elections for commissioners shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted pursuant to law in the same manner as other nonpartisan elections.”

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. 11 Yes – 3 No

5. **DJ Ferguson moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding to *Section 2.2 (A) The County Commission* as follows:

“No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of county commissioner if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years.”

John Martin moved that the motion be amended as follows:

“No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of county commissioner if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for ~~X~~ consecutive years.”

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to.

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. 6 Yes – 7 No

(Mr. York out of the room)

6. **Lura Williams Martin moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding to *Section 2.2 (A) The county commission* as follows:

~~“The governing body of the county shall be a board of county commissioners composed of five (5) members serving staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one (1) commission member for each of the five (5) county commission districts established pursuant to general law and they shall be elected on a~~

countywide basis by the electors of the county, numbered 1 through 5 and they shall be nominated and elected on a single-member basis by only the electors of each district respectively. Only electors residing in a district may vote for candidates seeking to be elected to represent the district in which they reside....”

Mitch Glaeser moved to amend the motion by adding the following: “*Section 2.2 (B) Redistricting.*”

“County commission district boundaries shall be changed only after notice and a public hearing as provided by general law. Commission districts shall be drawn so that three (3) and no more than (3) of the five (5) districts shall extend to the county line and two (2) districts shall be clustered in the center of the county.”

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to. 13 Yes – 1 No

After discussion, the motion as amended was agreed to.

11 Yes – 3 No

7. **Robert Ackerman** moved that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by as follows (based on Mr. Little’s letter of January 29, 2010) with each subsequent amendment listed conditioned on the approval of the amendment abolishing the board of county commissioners and designating a board of charter commissioners as the governing body of the county:

The Board of County Commissioners and office of county commissioner is hereby abolished as of _____.

A. The charter commission. The governing body of the county shall be a board of ~~county~~ charter commissioners composed of ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) members of which five (5) shall be elected from single member districts and two (2) shall be elected from the county at large serving staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one (1) commissioner for each of the ~~five (5) county~~ seven (7) charter commission districts. ~~established pursuant to general law.~~ There shall be one commission member elected from each of two (2) at-large districts encompassing the entire county numbered commission districts 1 and 2 and they shall be elected on a countywide basis by the electors of the county. The

person elected in district 1 shall be the permanent presiding officer of the board of charter commissioners and the ceremonial head of the county, and shall have the right to vote on all matters. In addition, one (1) charter commission members shall be elected from each of five (5) single member districts numbered 3 through 7 and they shall be elected on a single-member basis by only the electors residing in the district. Each candidate for the office of county charter commissioner shall reside within the district from which such candidate seeks election at the time of qualifying to run for that office, and during the term of office each commissioner shall reside in the district from which such commissioner ran for office, provided that any commissioner who is removed from a district by redistricting may continue to serve during the balance of the term of office. Elections for all commissioners shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted as other nonpartisan elections for county officers pursuant to law. No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of charter commissioner if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years; except, as to candidates for County Presiding Officer. No person may appear on the ballot for reelection who has served in the office of County Presiding Officer if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years."

(B) Redistricting. ~~County~~ charter commission district boundaries shall be changed only after notice and a public hearing as provided by general law. Commission districts shall be drawn so that three (3) and only (3) of the five (5) single-member districts shall extend to the county line and two (2) single-member districts shall be clustered in the center of the county, and all shall be drawn under guidelines that protect voting rights guaranteed by the constitutions of Florida and the United States.

(C) Salaries and other compensation. Salaries and other compensation of the ~~county~~ charter commissioners shall be set by county ordinance and shall be TBA percent of the salary ~~the same as those~~ set by general law for the county commissioners of noncharter counties; except that the salary of the County Presiding officer shall be set at TBA percent of the salary set by general law for county commissioners of noncharter counties.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. 13 Yes- 1 no

8. **Robert Brinkman** moved that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding:

“ No person shall operate an airboat in Alachua County between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. with exceptions for government airboats operated in the line of duty by authorized personnel, and private airboats authorized by law enforcement personnel during specific emergency incidents...”

There being no second, the motion was not considered.

9. **Joe Little** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion to adjourn was agreed to.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Bill Richards

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and adopted as submitted.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2010.

AuBroncee Martin moved that the February 24, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

3. General comments by members.

The chair recognized any commission member wishing to make comments.

4. Citizen Comments.

The chair recognized citizens wishing to address the commission.

5. Future meeting dates

The commission reviewed the remaining meeting dates.

John Martin moved that the April 28th meeting be rescheduled and if “live” television coverage could not be accommodated that the meeting be taped for later broadcast. The motion was agreed to.

6. Counsel's update on ballot language for previously considered proposals.

Attorney Sarah Bleakly reviewed draft ballot language of current proposals and brought the commission up-to-date on their status.

7. Consideration of proposals: "Straw Votes" to prioritize proposals.

1. **John Martin moved that the** commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the charter Sec. 4.2 as follows:

"D) Any other provision of this County charter notwithstanding, any amendment to this Charter proposed by petition, the charter review commission or the board of county commissioners that, in whole or in part, transfers or limits a service, function, power or authority of a municipality shall be effective within or in regard to a municipality only if the amendment is approved by a majority of the voters of Alachua County voting in a referendum and also approved by a majority of the voters voting in a referendum in that municipality."

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. 3 Yes – 10 No

2. **AuBroncee Martin moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter follows:

"The school superintendent for Alachua County shall be elected by the electors of the county rather than appointed by the school board."

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. 2 Yes – 12 No

3. **Robert Brinkman moved** that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding:

" No person shall operate an airboat in Alachua County between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. with exceptions for government airboats operated in the line of duty by authorized personnel, and private airboats authorized by law enforcement personnel during specific emergency incidents..."

After discussion the motion was not agreed to. 2 Yes – 12 No.

4. Rod Tuttle moved that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter by adding to *Section 3.1* as follows:

“Elections for the offices of clerk of the circuit court, property appraiser, sheriff, supervisor of elections, and tax collector shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted pursuant to law in the same manner as other nonpartisan elections.”

John Martin moved to amend the motion by adding this proposal to the previously considered proposals based on Mr. Little’s letter of January 29, 2010.

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to. 11 Yes – 3 No

After further discussion the motion as amended was agreed to. 8 Yes – 4 No.

5. Joe Little moved that the commission refer to the attorney a proposal to amend the Charter section 2.3 (B) and section 3.1as follows:

“The office of sheriff shall be appointed by the county manager and the board of county commissioners shall by majority vote confirm the appointment.”

After discussion, the amendment was not agreed to. 7 Yes – 6 No

(Note: Commission rules require 8 affirmative vote for approval.)

6. Joe Little moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion to adjourn was agreed to.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Monday, April 19, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joseph Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2010.

Joe Little moved that the March 24, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

2. General comments by members.

The chair recognized any commission member wishing to make comments.

3. Citizen Comments.

The chair recognized twenty eight citizens wishing to address the commission.

Armando Grundy-Gomes moved to rescind the action taken at the March 24, 2010 meeting and reconsider the following proposal:

“D) Any other provision of this County charter notwithstanding, any amendment to this Charter proposed by petition, the charter review commission or the board of county commissioners that, in whole or in part, transfers or limits a service, function, power or authority of a municipality shall be effective within or in regard to a municipality only if the amendment is approved by a majority of the voters of Alachua County voting in a referendum and also approved by a majority of the voters voting in a referendum in that municipality.”

After discussion the motion to reconsider was agreed to and the proposal was placed back before the commission. Yes: 11 No 4

After discussion, the commission agreed to carry forward the proposal to the public hearing phase.

Voting Yes: 11

Voting No: 4

Therefore, this proposal will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

4. Second Reading of ballot language of previously considered proposals.

Attorney Sarah Bleakley reviewed draft ballot language of current proposals whereupon, after discussion on each proposal, the commission considered whether each proposal should be carried forward to the public hearing phase with the following result:

Question 1: Single member district elections for board of county commissioners.

Voting to move the question forward: 7

Voting to not move the question forward: 8

Therefore, Question 1 is no longer under consideration.

Question 2: Nonpartisan election of board of county commissioners.

Without objection the chair consolidated this question with question 8.

Question 3: Citizens initiative petition requirements for ordinances.

Voting to move the question forward: 15

Voting to not move the question forward: 0

Therefore, Question 3 is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Question 4: Limitation of county commissioner's authority to amend or repeal ordinance approved by citizens initiative.

Mitch Glaeser moved to amend the proposal by replacing the requirement for unanimous vote by approval with 4/5 vote (super majority).

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to. 13 Yes 2 No

The CRC then considered the proposal as amended and whether or not the proposal should be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Voting to move the question forward: 15

Voting to not move the question forward: 0

Therefore, Question 4 is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Question 5: Replacing the board of county commissioners with a board of charter commissioners.

Voting to move the question forward: 9

Voting to not move the question forward: 6

Therefore, Question 5 is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Question 6: Seven member board of charter commissioners, five elected from districts and two elected county wide.

Robert Ackerman moved to amend the proposal by replacing five elected from districts with four elected by districts and replacing two elected at large by three elected at large.

After discussion, the amendment was not agreed to. Yes: 5 No: 10

The CRC then considered the proposal as amended and whether or not the proposal should be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Voting to move the question forward: 4

Voting to not move the question forward: 11

Therefore, Question 6 is no longer consideration.

Question 7: Elect five charter commissioners from electors in single member districts.

Voting to move the question forward: 7

Voting to not move the question forward: 8

Therefore, Question 7 is no longer under consideration.

Question 8: Non-partisan election of board of county commissioners.

Voting to move the question forward: 8

Voting to not move the question forward: 7

Therefore, Question 8 is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Question 9: Term limits for charter commissioners.

Joe Little moved to amend the proposal by replacing eight consecutive years with 12 consecutive years.

After discussion the amendment was agreed to. Yes: 12 No: 3

The CRC then considered the proposal as amended and whether or not the amended proposal should be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Voting to move the question forward: 7

Voting to not move the question forward: 8

Therefore, Question 9 as amended is no longer under consideration.

Question 10: Limiting the salary of the members and chair of the board of charter commissioners.

Robert Ackerman moved to amend the proposal by replacing the wording setting the salary as a percentage of non-charter counties with wording that would require that the charter commission set their salary by ordinance.

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to. Yes: 12 No: 3

The CRC then considered the proposal as amended and whether or not the amended proposal should be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Voting to move the question forward: 10

Voting to not move the question forward: 5

Therefore, Question 10 as amended is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

Question 11: Abolishing constitutional officers and replacing with charter officers elected in nonpartisan election.

Voting to move the question forward: 10

Voting to not move the question forward: 5

Therefore, Question 11 is still under consideration and will be carried forward to the public hearing phase.

The Chair announced how the public hearings would be conducted and thanked the commission for their work and the citizens for their participation.

Without objection the Chair adjourned the meeting.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy, J.K. Irby, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Joe Little

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2010.

Armando Grundy moved that the April 19, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

2. General comments by members.

The chair recognized any commission member wishing to make comments.

3. Public Hearing

The Charter of Alachua County requires the CRC to hold three public hearings. The chair called the public hearing to order and recognized ten citizens wishing to address the commission. There being no further citizens wishing to address the commission, the Chair closed the public hearing.

4. Other Business

Armando Grundy informed the CRC that he had been informed by a representative of the municipalities that they would appreciate deferral of the discussion on the question concerning a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal regulatory power until the next meeting. After some discussion, the request was agreed to without objection.

The commission held a general discussion about several topics still under consideration, however, no further action was taken.

5. Adjournment

Armando Grundy moved to adjourn. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, announced the date of the next meeting, and without objection adjourned the meeting.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy-
Gomes

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy-Gomes, J.K. Irby, Joe Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, James Stringfellow, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2010.

Armando Grundy moved that the May 12, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

2. General comments by members.

The chair recognized all commission members wishing to make comments. Extensive comments were made by several members of the commission.

Rob Brinkman moved that the chair write a letter to the Brevard County Charter Review Commission clarifying the current status of the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to.

3. Legal Counsel

Legal counsel Sarah Bleakley reviewed for the commission the requirements for the public hearings. She then made a presentation with regard to the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers. Attorney Bleakley compared the two proposals the commission received from the League of Cities to the proposal she prepared for the commission. She reviewed the law and expressed her concern with regard to proposed ballot language.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the chair recognized Alachua County League of Cities President Larry Travis, High Springs City Manager Jim Drumm, Town of Micanopy Mayor Richard Shutterly, and League of Cities representative Beth Rawlins.

4. Public Hearing

The Charter of Alachua County requires the CRC to hold three public hearings. The chair called the public hearing to order and recognized fourteen citizens wishing to address the commission. There being no further citizens wishing to address the commission, the Chair closed the public hearing.

5. Other Business

Jim Stringfellow moved to reconsider the proposal for county commissioners to be elected on a single member basis.

After discussion, the motion to reconsider was agreed to. 8 Yes 7 No

Therefore, the motion was placed back before the commission as follows:

Refer to the CRC attorney for review the following question: Shall the five members of the board of county commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, be elected from single-member districts by electors residing in each of those districts only, with no more than three districts extending to the county line?

After extensive discussion, the motion was agreed to. 8 Yes 7 No

Armando Grundy moved that the revised proposed language submitted by the League of Cities with regard to the proposal requiring charter amendments to have a dual vote on amendments affecting municipal functions and powers be substituted for the language proposed by the CRC counsel.

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. 5 Yes 10 No

AuBroncee Martin moved to for the CRC to engage an expert on single member districts to make a presentation to the commission regarding the pros and cons of single member districts and the requirements of the Voting Rights Act.

Rob Brinkman moved to amend the motion by adding that the CRC counsel provide the commission her legal opinion as to whether the law allows the charter to provide instructions to the board of county commissioners with regard to how they shall draw their districts (e.g. "Three and only three districts shall extend to the county line").

After discussion the amendment was agreed to.

After discussion the motion as amended was agreed to.

6. Adjournment

Armando Grundy moved to adjourn. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, announced the date of the next meeting, and without objection adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy, J.K. Irby, Joe Little, Aubroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Jim Stringfellow

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes of May 26, 2010.

Armando Grundy moved that the May 26, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was agreed to.

2. General comments by members.

The chair recognized all commission members wishing to make comments.

Armando Grundy moved that the commission take public comments on all motions made after the public hearing.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to.

3. Legal Counsel

Legal counsel Sarah Bleakley reviewed the current proposals and gave an update and reviewed her recent opinions including comments on HB 131 which is now law.

4. Public Hearing

The Charter of Alachua County requires the CRC to hold three public hearings. The chair called the public hearing to order and recognized twenty nine citizens wishing to address the commission.

There being no further citizens wishing to address the commission, the Chair closed the public hearing.

5. Other Business

Armando Grundy moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 3 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Require Both County and Municipal Voter Approval of Charter Amendments Affecting Municipal Regulatory Power.

As part of the ensuing discussion, among others the chair recognized Alachua County League of Cities President Larry Travis, High Springs City Manager Jim Drumm, Micanopy Mayor Richard Shutterly, Newberry Mayor Harry Nichols, Waldo Mayor Louie Davis, Archer Mayor Roberta Lopez, and League of Cities representative Beth Rawlins.

Ashley Wood moved to amend the motion by replacing the proposal with the language presented by the League of Cities which included the statement, “and the proposing charter review commission, board of county commissioners or citizen’s initiative petition sponsor has determined that the county wide amendment fulfills an important county purpose”.

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to.

After further discussion, the motion as amended was agreed to.

Yes 9 No 5

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 3 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

The chair asked for and received without objection permission for legal counsel to make any technical or conforming changes to the all proposals and correct any scrivener’s errors that are identified.

Robert Brinkman moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 1 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Citizens Initiative Petition Requirements for Ordinances.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. Yes 12 No 2

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 1 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

Joe Little moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 2 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Limitation on County Commissioners' Authority to Amend or Repeal Ordinances Approved by Citizens Initiative.

Discussion regarding the proposal including consideration of using the term "super majority" followed.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. Yes 12 No 2

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 2 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

Armondo Grundy moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 4 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Replacing the Board of County Commissioners with a Board of Charter Commissioners.

After discussion, **AuBroncee Martin moved** to postpone consideration of this item and all remaining items until the June 23, 2010, meeting.

After discussion, the motion to postpone was not agreed to. Yes 7 No 7

Discussion continued on the motion.

Mitch Glaeser moved to amend the motion by adding "Each candidate for the office of charter commissioner shall reside within the district from which such candidate seeks election at least six months prior to the time of qualifying to run for that office".

After discussion the amendment was not agreed to. Yes 6 No 8

Discussion continued on the main motion.

After discussion, the main motion was agreed to. Yes 9 No 5

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 4 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

Joe Little moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 5 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Non-Partisan Election of Board of County Commissioners.

After discussion, the motion was not agreed to. Yes 6 No 8

Having failed to receive the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 5 would NOT be forwarded to the

Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

Joe Little moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 6 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Setting the Salaries of the Board of County Commissioners.

Mitch Glaeser moved to amend the motion by striking the words, "The salary in effect at the beginning of a commissioner's term in office shall not be lowered during that commissioner's term."

After discussion, the amendment was agreed to. Yes 11 No 3

Discussion continued on the motion as amended.

After further discussion, the motion as amended was agreed to.

Yes 10 No 4

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 6 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

Joe Little moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 7 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Requiring the Constitutional Officers to Be Elected In A Non-Partisan Election.

Mr. Brinkman requested that the motion be clarified.

Mr. Little clarified that his motion was to move the resolution and ballot language indicating that the charter be amended to abolish the constitutional offices and have all duties transferred to charter offices with the same name and powers and have the election of such charter officers be chosen by vote of the electors in non-partisan elections.

After discussion, the motion was agreed to. Yes 12 No 2

Having received the requisite eight votes required by the Charter, the chair announced that Question 7 would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the general election ballot.

There being no further business Joe Little moved to adjourn.

The motion was agreed to. Yes 14 No 0

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.



Alachua County Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Commission Members

Robert Ackerman

Robert Brinkman

DJ Ferguson

Mitch Glaeser, Vice Chair

Armando R. Grundy

J. K. Irby, Chair

Joseph W. Little

AuBroncee S. Martin

John Martin

Bill Richards

Jim Stringfellow

Rod Tuttle

Lura W. Williams Martin

Ashley Wood

Guy York

County Staff:
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Charter Review
Commission
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CRC Members Present: Robert Ackerman, Robert Brinkman, DJ Ferguson, Mitch Glaeser, Armando Grundy, J.K. Irby, Joe Little, AuBroncee Martin, John Martin, Bill Richards, Rod Tuttle, Lura Williams Martin, Jim Stringfellow, Ashley Wood, Guy York

CRC Members Absent: Bill Richards

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

General comments by members.

The chair recognized all commission members wishing to make comments.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2010.

Joe Little moved that the June 9, 2010 minutes be accepted as presented. The Chair requested that staff correct a couple of scrivener errors. The minutes as corrected were unanimously agreed to.

3. Legal Counsel: Presentation of options regarding approved proposals to be forwarded to the County Commission and voters.

Legal counsel Sarah Bleakley reviewed the current proposals and provided two alternatives combining proposals for the commission's consideration. One alternative combined proposals 1 and 2. A second alternative combined proposals 4 and 5. Neither alternative proposal received commission backing. The Chair advised that the original (June 9th) adopted language would stand. Attorney Bleakley also provided the commission with an alternative ballot title for proposal number 6.

Ashley Wood moved to substitute the alternative ballot title for proposal number 6 as follows: "Providing for non-partisan elections of constitutional officers by abolishing them and replacing them with charter officers".

After discussion, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

4. Presentation by Dr. Kenneth Wald, Ph.D. regarding single member districts.

The Chair introduced and recognized Dr. Kenneth Wald, Ph. D. who made a presentation regarding the pros and cons of single member districts. He also reviewed the requirements of the Voting Rights Act, court decisions regarding the Voting Rights Act, and the guidelines that should be used in drawing districts. Dr. Wald entertained questions from the commission and responded accordingly.

The Chair and other members expressed their gratitude to Dr. Wald for his presentation.

5. Consideration of single member district proposals.

- a. 7-1 County Commissioners single member districts per statute.
- b. 7.2 Charter Commissioners with three districts going to county line.

Armando Grundy moved the resolution and ballot language on Question 7-1 as presented by legal counsel and that the following question be submitted to the electorate: Elect Five Commissioners from Electors in Single Member Districts.

The Chair recognized twenty citizens wishing to speak on the question.

The Chair recognized all members of the commission wishing to speak.

Following a thorough discussion, the motion was not agreed to.

Yes 7 (Glaeser, Irby, J. Martin, Stringfellow, Tuttle, L. Martin, York)

No 7 (Ackerman, Brinkman, Ferguson, Grundy, Little, A. Martin, Wood)

6. Directions to staff regarding report.

DJ Ferguson moved that the county staff be directed to prepare the commission's final report and have it placed on the agenda for County Commission action.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

7. Authorization for the Chair to approve expenditures on behalf of the CRC.

Armando Grundy moved that Chair Irby be authorized to review and approve all expenditures incurred by the CRC.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

8. Closing comments and other business.

The Chair recognized all members wishing to make comments.

9. Adjourn Sine die

Joe Little moved the Charter Review Commission adjourn sine die.

The motion was unanimously agreed to and the Chair adjourned the CRC sine die.