

**Summary of Discussion**  
**Broward County Charter Review Commission**  
**Administrative Issues/Governance Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Governmental Center - Room 430**  
**8:00 AM - 9:30 AM**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Irv Rosenbaum, Chair  
Michael Buckner, Esq.  
Mayor Debby Eisinger  
Patricia Good  
Commissioner Hazelle Rogers, CRC Vice-Chair  
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq., Vice Chair  
Richard Weiss, Esq.

**Members Absent:**

Bruce Rogow, Esq.

**Others Attending:**

Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC  
Yolanda Grooms, Administrative Specialist, CRC  
Maria Gross, Assistant Director, CRC  
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting  
Patricia G. West, Executive Director, CRC

(Copies of the sign-in sheets identifying those present are filed with the supplemental papers to the Summary of this Subcommittee Meeting.)

A meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Administrative Issues / Governance Subcommittee ("Committee," "Subcommittee," or "AGSC" was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center – Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

## **I Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Chair Dr. Irv Rosenbaum called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:09 a.m., and requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc.

## **II. Approval of 4/11/2007 Summary of Discussion**

**Mr. Weiss made a MOTION and Mr. Buckner SECONDED, and the Motion carried unanimously to approve the Administrative Issues/Governance Subcommittee April 11<sup>th</sup> Summary of Discussion.**

The Chair called for any discussion from the dais of Agenda Item No. III.

## **III. Issues Discussed by County Commissioners Pertaining to Subcommittee Issues**

### **A. Review Comments from Commissioner Interviews**

### **B. Review Agenda Item # 43-March 13, 2007 Commission Meeting-Motion to Discuss County's Efforts as it relates to 2010 Census**

Ms. West explained that issues A and B were basically notes provided with regard to the census and redistricting discussion.

Ms. Eisinger advised that the Commission never reached consensus as they were really inquiring as to legal opinion and their rights. She asked if anyone knew what the final outcome was. Ms. West replied that she did not.

The Chair advised that the dais should look at the census and redistricting and how well the people of the County are represented in the way the Districts are drawn. He added that the issue before the dais is that the County has undergone major demographic change in a very short period and that Broward County has had population shifts of great magnitude. The Chair suggested that the question will be: *Should the Charter provide a mechanism to adjust for population shifts of great magnitude?*

***Commissioner Rogers Entered at this time.***

The Chair explained his position on why demographic shifts should be discussed; he suggested that the dais obtain demographic information from County Planning staff.

Ms. Eisinger suggested based upon her review of the discussion that the dais should determine if the County is moving in the direction of addressing Districts and voting At-large. She added

that then the demographic shifts would not be such a major factor if there is consideration for At-large voting.

The Chair proposed to address any inequities in the districts from the point of view of facts, by seeing what has happened demographically in some areas of Broward County. He thinks that there have been some population shifts, and suggested the 2000 Broward County Census should be looked at as well.

***Ms. Good Entered at this time***

***Ms. Norris-Weeks Entered at this time***

The discussion continued with comments from Ms. Eisinger and Ms. West regarding school demographic information and the possibility of the exclusion of Charter and Private School demographics.

Mr. Buckner voiced his concern that all aspects of the County are adequately represented and issues not be made political. He stated that the AGSC should move forward based upon facts. The Chair advised that validity will be established by gathering the information, and at that time the dais can decide what to do. He requested Ms. West obtain and forward the necessary information. Ms. West advised of the methods of dissemination.

The Chair called for any further discussion.

Ms. West reminded the dais of documentation provided as requested, due to concern from the dais as to what Commissioner comments were regarding the issues of Strong Mayor vs. Weak Mayor, and where each stood on them.

The Chair described his 2000 Census experience to the dais, and compared that experience to the proposed 2010 census strategy. Comments were made by Ms. Good, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Eisinger. A discussion ensued regarding funding, count accuracy and census problems and current Census Pilot Studies. Ms. Rogers advised the dais that Commissioner Lieberman has been re-appointed to head the County's census count. She asked if what the decision is other than redistricting and the need to advocate funding for a count. The Chair advised that the AGSC would try to get an overview from County Planning as to what the Population Shifts are, and then decide if a decision needs to be made.

**Ms. Norris-Weeks joined the dais at 8:25 am.**

Ms. Eisinger advised that based on discussions of the County Commission, it is probably evident that every 10 years is not enough for redistricting in Broward County. She advised that it also appears through their discussion, and to keep it out of politics, the Commission questioned whether the County should make the decision through re-districting or to leave it to the Charter Review Commission to suggest maybe every 5 years or so for re-districting. She stated that Census information and demographics are important to determine how re-districting will take place.

*The Chair suggested that the dais table the issue and revisit after obtaining the necessary information from County staff. The dais agreed to continue the discussion at the next AGSC meeting when there is more information provided.*

#### **IV. Determine Presenters for Upcoming Meetings**

Ms. West reminded the dais of the three issues that they linked together at the previous AGSC meeting.

- A. Structure; Form of Government
- B. Mayor duties; Strong vs. Weak
- C. Election of Commissioners

The Chair opened the floor for suggestions on organizing the issues. He suggested that the dais should address each issue by topic and have speakers for each topic.

A discussion ensued with regard to the September draft suggested deadline. Ms. West advised that the dais should have draft recommendations by September, and that by February the AGSC should have the language that they would want to put on the ballot. Mr. Weiss suggested escalating meetings as necessary, as agreed previously by the dais. Ms. West asked the dais for suggestions on who they would want to invite.

Members of the Committee suggested speakers from Civic Groups, Community Groups, Universities, Homeowner's Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Outside Agencies such as Public Groups, the League of Women Voters, the Downtown Council, myriad interest groups who follow government operations, including the local Political Parties and others, in addition to re-inviting the Commissioners. The Committee also noted that they will adjust the schedule for longer meetings to allow time for discussion. The dais agreed to invite people by topics.

The Chair suggested that they should get written comments from people who cannot make it to meetings; he also suggested that they should put a Blog page on the Charter web.

Following a discussion relevant to a Blog, another discussion ensued regarding the meeting length and times, advertisement in multiple newspapers including the Broward Times, Westside Gazette, and Caribbean papers, Caribbean radio and other avenues. The Chair also suggested explaining the issues in layman terms to be used in invitations and advertisements; it was determined that a script would be developed.

It was suggested to possibly utilize a facilitator who could go out to drum up interest by reminding the public of the Charter. The dais agreed.

The Chair suggested that a letter invitation be written to the Commissioners inviting them to return to speak. Ms. West advised that she will write the letter to the Commissioners and extend invitations as soon as possible. After a brief discussion the dais agreed that the next meetings will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00am – 12:00pm at the Governmental Center or the Broward County Library.

Ms. Eisinger suggested that Community groups can help get the word out and forward the information to their membership.

Ms. Rogers advised that the South Florida Regional Planning Council could also give the AGSC demographic information based on land development and land use. She suggested Dr. Jerry Kolo. The dais agreed.

Ms. Good inquired as to the AGSC July meeting schedule. Ms. West advised that the full CRC would not be meeting; however, it is up to each subcommittee whether they will meet.

## **V. Discussion of Role & Function of County Government**

The Chair expressed that he feels that they need more information regarding the Discussion of Role & Function of County Government. He explained that the Charter establishes broad powers, but does not carefully define Broward County Government. He suggested that the AGSC should suggest something at the beginning of the Charter that describes the County's priorities, differentiating the County, and something that shows a county-wide focus. He suggested that research be conducted on how County governments define themselves and present alternatives to the dais.

Ms. West reminded the dais that there is a CD with 17 Charter Counties in Florida which was provided as a resource. She advised that she would provide a link to them. The Chair then reminded the dais that many of those Counties are not like Broward County as Broward County has almost no unincorporated areas left. He advised that there is a two- tiered form of Government; he added that the County has inherent municipal functions. He stated that he wants to see something defining where the County ends and the municipalities begin.

Mr. Weiss stated that he is not sure the AGSC has identified specific issues and problems; he also suggested identifying the problems to be solved as opposed to looking at the Charter as a document.

The Chair advised that the problems have not happened yet.

Ms. Norris-Weeks expressed that she feels that the problems have happened and they should be discussed; she advised that Municipal growth is a problem.

Mr. Weiss restated his position.

The Chair expressed that his concern was with most of the Commissioners who are elected at-large.

Mr. Weiss suggested that the Committee make a list, then determine if they are personnel or Charter problems.

Ms. Rogers asked if the Charter has any say over the judicial body.

Mr. Weiss replied, "No." He added that Article 5 of the State Constitution states that the Charter does not touch the judicial body. He then asked Mr. Goren if there is anything that could be done with the Judicial System in terms of the problems. Ms. West advised that there was something in the Legislative Report where they have added more responsibilities to the County. Ms. Good advised that this is not a topic for the AGSC. The Chair suggested that the AGSC should discuss the role of County Government and adding "Guiding Principles of the County."

Ms. Rogers advised that boundary increases in Parkland have been extended into Palm Beach County. Mr. Weiss advised that he is reluctant to discuss changes. The Chair suggested looking at municipal charters and ordinances.

Mr. Weiss stated that the second problem that the Subcommittee is dealing with is whether the changes to the Charter need to be made.

The Chair gave an example of the Palm Beach County drainage issue.

Ms. Norris-Weeks agreed with Mr. Weiss with regard to identifying the problems and making a list. Ms. Good advised that there are problems, and then there are areas that can be improved with some changes and a discussion ensued.

Ms. Eisinger explained that it is hard to have someone provide information on a topic without being unbiased.

Mr. Weiss suggested that the dais come up with a list of problems; he advised that a list will give the Subcommittee structure. Mr. Weiss suggested that the dais discuss each issue on the list and try to come up with a solution.

A brief discussion took place regarding Leadership.

**The Chair made a Motion, which was SECONDED by Mr. Buckner, and the Motion carried unanimously to extend the meeting.**

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Eisinger asked that between the last Charter Review Board and now, how much of Broward County has been annexed. The Chair advised that they exist in an environment of great change.

A brief discussion took place regarding items to put on the list of issues.

The Chair advised that Economic Development is a major problem that the Subcommittee needs to focus on. Mr. Weiss expressed that he feels that Environment and Transportation are huge problems.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that the only way to deal with Parochialism would be to establish some kind of structure.

The dais agreed to the following issues:

1. *Parochialism*
2. *Duplication of Efforts*
3. *Leadership / Responsibility (is there a lack of leadership/responsibility)*
4. *Influence- is there an administrative problem*
5. *Economic Development*

## **VI. Public Comment**

None

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion and no public comment, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Ms. Good and SECONDED Mr. Weiss.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53am

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-AGSC CD # 5.09.07 (BCGV CTR)