

**Summary of Discussion
Broward County Charter Review Commission
Health & Social Services Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, July 17, 2007
Main Library – 6th Floor (Bienes Conference Room)
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Members Present:

Mr. G. Wil Trower, Chair
Ms. Jodi Jeffreys–Tanner, Vice Chair
Mr. David Esack
Mr. Mark Ketcham
Dr. Mark Lieberman
Joseph Maus, Esq.
Bernadette Norris–Weeks, Esq.

Members Absent:

NONE

Others Attending:

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

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

A meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Health / Social Services Subcommittee “Committee, Subcommittee, or HSSC,” was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at the Broward County Main Library, Sixth Floor Bienes Conference Room, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Chair Wil Trower called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m. The Chair requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. Upon completion of the roll the Chair recognized the presence of a quorum.

II. Approval of Summary of Discussion of June 13 and June 25, 2007 Subcommittee Meetings

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, Mr. Esack SECONDED, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Health/Social Services Subcommittee, June 13, 2007, Summary of Discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, Mr. Esack SECONDED, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Health/Social Services Subcommittee, June 25, 2007, Summary of Discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Discussion of Report on Recommendations for Proposed Ballot Topics

The Chair advised the dais that a Summary of issues and questions posed by members of the dais has been provided by staff (***Summary of Issues – April 11, 2007***). *The Chair explained that the summaries provided include items which have been brought up by the dais throughout conversations and interviews with various individuals who spoke to the HSSC in regard to the two areas of Housing and Children's Services.* He then suggested that the dais layout as a subcommittee the items it feels need to be focused on and submitted to the full committee. The Chair then afforded the dais time to review the Summaries.

Ms. West provided a brief overview of items in the dais folders which included:

- House Bill 53 – Miami-Dade Discretionary Surtax on Documents
- Florida Department of Community Affairs 2007 Legislative Session Passed Bill Summary including SB506 and HB1375 filed by Mike Davis and Rudy Garcia.

Mr. Esack asked Ms. West if staff had heard back from Mr. Carras with any written ideas he advised he could provide. Ms. West advised that she had not received anything and she would contact Mr. Carras.

Ms. Tanner advised that she was very interested in finding out about linkage fees which might be a funding possibility. She asked staff if they could obtain a little more information.

Ms. West reminded the dais that Mr. Carras was also going to review the Charter to see if there might be any place in the Charter where he might make a recommendation.

Dr. Lieberman pointed out that some dais folders contain Public Safety June 13th minutes rather than Health and Social Services June 13th minutes. Staff immediately corrected the error by providing those who had the wrong minutes with the correct ones.

End of Review of Summary of Issues – 10:32 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of Item 1 - Children Services. He asked the dais to create a list of thoughts / recommendations or amendments / revisions to the Charter. He advised after this the dais will discuss the issue in depth.

Dr. Lieberman reminded the dais of the discussion at the first meeting of maintaining a minimum or freezing a threshold for Children's Services so that funding could not be touched with budget cuts. He then asked if this is possible to create an amendment that tells how to utilize the budget.

A discussion ensued among the dais with comments made by Ms. Tanner who advised that she believed this is possible. Mr. Maus expressed concern that when reading through the Charter there are provisions there which direct the government on how to operate but he advised that to add an actual monetary floor or ceiling would, he believe, go beyond the intent of the Charter. He advised to put something general advising that the County shall maintain a dedicated source of revenue which goes in *this* direction is one thing, but to say it has to be at a certain level to him oversteps the Charter. Dr. Lieberman suggested that the dollar amount should somehow be maintained. Comments were made by Ms. Tanner regarding keeping the language general without stipulating a dollar amount. Ms. Weeks who suggested doing what the Legislature does by providing language with states a threshold, i.e. fiscal year _____ through _____. She advised that then it will be known to keep funding at that level. Comments were made by Ms. Tanner, Mr. Esack and Mr. Ketcham who advised that he would be uncomfortable as it might tie the Commissions' hands when it comes to developing a budget. The Chair reminded the dais that the intent of the original discussion was to ensure that Children's Services continues to get funding and coordination of services.

The Chair suggested that rather than an Amendment to the Charter that the TSC could make a recommendation to the County that they continue to support Children's Services. He advised that he believes that the Children's Services Council has the authority to raise their millage rates to deal with issues that come up. He also pointed out that they have a specific charge and asked if that is all they could do.

Ms. Weeks advised that it is what they've chosen to do in order to maximize the leverage funding.

Ms. West suggested that a good step would be a recommendation to keep Children's Services is an important issue in the County and should be kept as a priority.

Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, and Ms. Weeks SECONDED and the motion passed unanimously to recommend to the full Committee that the CRC makes a recommendation to the County Commission to continue to keep Children's Services as a priority in Broward County.

The Chair called for any other issues related to Children's Services. There being none, the Chair opened the floor to discussion of Service Collaboration.

Dr. Lieberman reminded the dais of discussions regarding redundant services between the County and the Charities and having them come together as a Committee. But he advised that he does not believe an amendment could be made to that affect. He suggested possibly doing something to improve communications between the non-profits and the County.

A brief discussion ensued with comments made by Ms. Weeks, Ms. Tanner, Ms. West and the Chair and it was agreed to table the discussion until later.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on Affordable Housing.

The Chair reminded the dais of the discussion on proposing the establishment of a Housing Council similar to the Fire Rescue Council to basically coordinate all not-for-profits.

Mr. Maus asked what happened to the Affordable Housing Bill that the County Commission was considering. Ms. West explained that it was filed by the County but did not pass legislation in 2006. She also explained that they have reorganized the Office of Housing since then with

Ralph Stone who has been moved into Planning and Urban Development. Ms. West advised that Mr. Carras is a consultant; she advised that she can contact him for a report.

Ms. Grooms reminded the dais that Mr. Carras did advise that he would give a written comment but he also advised that because he is a Consultant he would expect to be paid for it. The dais members expressed concern and Ms. West advised that she would contact Mr. Carras and ask him directly in terms of what he can do for the HSSC.

Ms. Grooms also reminded the dais that Mr. Carras advised that a Study would be out at the end of August which he stated could be provided to the dais.

Ms. Tanner advised that this is the study that she was interested in because it was regarding linkage fees which is a dedicated funding source which could be placed in the Charter to begin utilizing linkage fees which are similar to impact fees for building and development.

Dr. Lieberman advised that he does not think that linkage fees or Doc Stamps could be a Charter Amendment. He did, however, advise that he believes it could be a recommendation.

Mr. Ketcham reminded the dais that 38,000 units is a concern; he queried that the linkage fees and Doc Stamps that may raise \$10 million or \$15 million in a year would provide how many units.

Dr. Lieberman requested staff find out how much money has been raise through Doc Stamps in Dade County. He then asked if they went through their County Commission. Ms. West informed Dr. Lieberman that they did not. Dr. Lieberman advised that he is still interested in knowing how well it is working in Dade County and how much money it brings in.

Ms. West advised that she contacted Miami-Dade County who provided names of several people for her to contact. She informed the dais that she has called and left messages but has not yet heard from anyone. She then advised that research also is forthcoming. Ms. Weeks requested an invitation be extended for someone from Miami-Dade to come in to speak before the HSSC. The Chair requested Ms. West look into it.

The Chair addressed Transit Oriented Development which was a topic discussed by Mr. Carras. He explained that an option would be to recommend it back to the full Committee because he

advised it seems to him that both Land Use and Transportation Subcommittees have something to do with the issue in terms of supporting it.

Ms. West explained that there had been some discussion in one of the Land Use Subcommittee meetings about Impact Fees / Linkage Fees or something that is to transpire in 2008. She advised that she is not sure what the exact fee is but something is supposed to happen in January 2008. She then suggested having someone come in to discuss the fees as well as a joint coordination meeting with the Land Use Subcommittee. Ms. West advised that an invitation was extended to Mr. Weiss for him to attend the HSSC meeting to discuss some of the Land Use issues or to sit in to hear was to being discussed but he could not make it.

Ms. Weeks inquired as to what the dais issue is with regard to Transit Oriented Corridors.

The Chair advised that he does not believe that this is something that can be handled through the HSSC. He advised that given the need for 38,000 units in the future and discussions within the Transportation Subcommittee regarding Transit Oriented Housing as well as within the Land Use Subcommittee, to him it is not simply a Health and Social Services Subcommittee issue. He advised that the HSSC can recommend that there is a need and something that needs to be looked at.

Ms. Weeks advised that some of the TOC issues concentrate along 441 and redevelopment. She advised that she does not believe it is a clear-cut issue and an easy issue for the Charter due to all of the areas involved. She then informed the dais of a document which was passed out during the Management and Efficiency Study Committee (MESOC) that provided descriptions of DOC stamp types and what is happening with them in different areas which might be of interest to the HSSC.

Ms. West advised that she would check with Cynthia Chambers for a copy as it might have been an EAR Report.

Mr. Maus advised that he and Mr. Ketcham both sit on the LUSC and there has been no discussion on TOCs because many of the Cities that sit on 441, Federal Highway, University etc. have already begun to focus on TOCs even before they go to the Planning Council. Mr. Ketcham asked how this would fit into the Charter.

A discussion ensued with comments made by Ms. Weeks regarding the focus on getting designations with Mr. Maus providing an example of the Gulfstream Park project and the Planning Council moving large projects toward TOCs.

The Chair asked the dais for thoughts on what the HSSC should be doing to move the issue forward. Ms. Weeks suggested that the biggest issue is to set up a Council due to lack of coordination of the not-for-profits groups. Ms. West asked if this Council would be called an Affordable Housing Council or a Housing Council.

[Mr. Esack departed at this time 11:05am]

Ms. Weeks suggested Affordable Housing Council; Ms. Tanner advised that she agreed but advised that there are groups already in existence and it might need to be a little more open. A discussion ensued with comments made by Ms. Weeks, Ms. Tanner, Dr. Lieberman, Mr. Maus, and Ms. Gross, including Council role and function, cost and funding and comparison and makeup of the Fire Rescue Council as a guide. The suggestion was made to make Affordable Housing a responsibility of the Planning Council. Dr. Lieberman suggested having someone speak to the HSSC on the Planning Council. Mr. Maus being a former member advised that the Planning Council will not have the time, resources or desire to tackle Affordable Housing.

Ms. Gross advised that the Planning Council already has an Affordable Housing subcommittee which is different from what the HSSC is proposing.

Ms. Weeks MOTIONED, and Ms. Tanner SECONDED to recommend to the full Committee to create a provision in the Charter to allow for an Affordable Housing Council under some section. Dr. Lieberman modified the MOTION to entitle the Council as “Housing Council with its main goals being Affordable Housing and the Homeless.”

The Chair clarified the motion.

Ms. Weeks and Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, and Dr. Lieberman SECONDED to recommend to the full CRC to create a Charter Amendment to establish a Housing Council under its own section with the primary mission being to coordinate the initiatives throughout the County.

A discussion ensued regarding the makeup of the Council. Suggestions were made by Ms. West and Ms. Tanner to include, Realtors, Bankers, Housing Representatives, Not-for-Profits and others.

Mr. Maus suggested keeping the Homeless Housing issue as a separate issue because both issues are rather large. He suggested that the makeup of the Housing Council could almost be made up similar to the Planning Council with City and County Commissioners and some at-large people vs. a Homeless Committee where you would have a different group of people. Ms. Weeks explained that she thinks homeless people who get checks should also have housing but they can't; she advised that she was hoping that the Housing Council could deal with this. Ms. Tanner explained that this is the role of the already existing Homeless Initiative Partnership located on Sunrise Blvd. The Chair explained that the role of the Housing Council would be to coordinate organizations such as HIP.

Mr. Maus inquired as to the next steps. The Chair advised that General Counsel will be requested to draft the recommendations for the full CRC to review. He then asked the dais to continue to think about the Council makeup and any unintended consequences and a copy of the rough draft will be provided as soon as it is available.

The Chair called for all in favor, I's were stated and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weeks suggested adding an acknowledgement that no tax dollars will be utilized.

The Chair summarized the two recommendations for the dais.

Mr. Maus requested staff contact Mr. Sniezek or whoever is chairing the Planning Council Affordable Housing Committee in order to figure out if they are meeting or just waiting on the County Commission or if they are making recommendations. Ms. West advised that at one time they were very active.

Mr. Ketcham advised that at the last meeting he suggested the possibility of recommending a 3% Cap be placed on rental properties and asked what the dais thinks of the idea.

Ms. West informed the dais that she was advised that Legislation had passed and it was hoped that something such as what Mr. Ketcham suggested would have gone into it as it was a focus of the lobbyist to try to get it in but they did not. She explained that it would have to happen at

the State level. Mr. Ketcham asked why and Ms. West advised that this is what she was told by the by Henry Templeton after asking him if it would be the County's role or the Property Appraiser's role. She explained that Mr. Templeton advised that it would have to be done through State Statute. A brief discussion ensued and The Chair pointed out that there is a big disparity in terms of taxation between Broward and Palm Beach. Mr. Maus stated that this would be something instead of Save our Homes would be Save our Rental Homes. The Chair advised that he is not sure exactly how much discretion the Property Appraiser actually has.

Mr. Ketcham expressed his views advising that he watches the County and City Commissioners address homelessness and propose raising taxes on the landlords who are housing the poorest people. He advised that this is pushing people out of their rental properties. He suggested that if there is any way to put a cap on it somehow, where, if there is a tenant living in a house that the taxes can only go up so much as homesteaded property then it would be protecting that tenant and providing more affordable housing. The Chair advised that this might not be the way to do it but suggested inviting someone in from the Property Appraiser's office and having Mr. Sniezek attend the next HSSC meeting to discuss other possible alternatives.

The next meeting will be held August 8th in room 430.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Adjournment

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-HSSC CD # 7.17.07 (BCGV CTR)