

SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING
1101 EAST FIRST STREET
SANFORD, FLORIDA
32771-1468



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 1, 2024

6:00 PM

BCC Chambers

Charter Review Commission

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present	Angela R. Fleming, Colleen Hufford, Emily Tallman, Tom O' Hanlon, Michelle Smith, John Horan, Deborah Bauer, Nicole Martz, Marilyn E. Crotty, Russell "Rusty" Roberts, Sean Barth, Carissa Lawhun, and John Richardson
Absent	Robin Dehlinger, and Scott Culp

Additional Attendees: Special Legal Counsel Senator David Simmons, Assistant County Manager Meloney Koontz, Senior Assistant County Attorney Desmond Morrell, Clerk of Court & Comptroller Grant Maloy, and Deputy Clerk Chariti Guevara.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Barth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of last meeting minutes

1. Minutes from Charter Review Commission Meeting on 1/18/2024 [2024-0025](#)

Ms. Crotty advised she had a correction to the January 18, 2024, minutes on page 2 under the next to the last paragraph. She clarified her recommendation was two parts. The first part is removal of property from the rural area would require a vote of the citizens with a simple majority vote. The second part is any change in the density or intensity in the rural area would require a BCC supermajority vote.

Motion by Sean Barth, seconded by Angela Fleming, to approve the January 18, 2024, Charter Review Commission meeting minutes with the changes recommended by Ms. Crotty.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

Other Business

2. Introduction of Charter Review Commissioner John Richardson. Mr. Richardson will replace Bruce Kubec as the representative of Longwood. [2024-0027](#)

3. Verify and Approve DSK Law Monthly Invoice [2024-0026](#)

Motion by Tom O'Hanlon, seconded by Rusty Roberts, to approve DSK Law Invoice #497869.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

4. Review Charter Review Commission Remaining Timeline [2024-0023](#)

Chairman Horan stated there is a CRC meeting scheduled for April 18, 2024. The Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council is also hosting the Golden Eagle Dinner that evening which many of the CRC members may attend so there would possibly not be a quorum.

Motion by Tom O'Hanlon, seconded by Michelle Smith, to reschedule the April 18, 2024, meeting to April 17, 2024.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

5. Complete Seminole County Charter Section 5.4 Summary Presentation [2024-0024](#)
(Senator David Simmons, Special Legal Counsel)

Mr. Simmons reviewed Charter Sections 5.3 and 5.4.

In regards to Section 5.4, Ms. Crotty suggested adding a local, independent ethics commission and an ethics officer, who would be a county employee but reported to the ethics commission. The commission would leave out the constitutional officers but deal with the county commission, staff, and perhaps municipal officials.

Ms. Tallman handled duties of scribe for this meeting due to Ms. Dehlinger's absence.

6. Review and Consider Possible Charter Amendments [2024-0034](#)

The following list of Possible Charter Amendments was reviewed to see if there were any additional recommendations.

- Change County Commission election from Partisan to Non-Partisan.
- Section 2.2 (A) - Residency time requirements for County Commissioners.
- Section 2.2 (B) - Create an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- Section 2.2 (D) - Create a maximum dollar limit for when Economic Impact Statements are required.
- Section 3.2 - Delete Seminole County School Board Elections.
- Section 4.2 (B)(1) - Add alternate appointments to the CRC.
- Section 5.1 - Casino Gambling.
- Section 5.2 (B) - Rural boundary removal by voters with 50% plus 1.
- Section 5.2 (C) - Change Density or intensity in rural areas changed by a super majority of BCC.
- New Section - County-owned parks, trails, and conservation areas cannot be sold, leased, or converted without 60% approval by voters.
- Section 5.4 - Create an ethics commission and ethics officer.

Ms. Crotty suggested also changing the charter review process from every six years to every ten years.

With regard to public comment, Phyllis Hall, Seminole Audubon Society, addressed the CRC and shared the Audubon's recommendations (letter outlining recommendations was received and filed).

Public Speaker Form received and filed.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) list was reviewed. Ms. Hufford commented some of the items that have been suggested do not belong in the charter and could, for

example, go on the Comprehensive Plan or policies and procedures. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Tom O'Hanlon, seconded by Michelle Smith, to not include LWV Item 4 Environmental standards to the list.

Ms. Crotty voted NAY.

All other members in attendance voted AYE.

The motion passes by a majority.

It was determined that Items 1 through 7, excluding Item 4, from the LWV list was already on the CRC list. Ms. Crotty reminded the LWV president advised Items 1 through 7 were their priority issues. Items 8 through 13 were the lesser items they were interested in seeing. Item 8 is already in the Charter and the additional suggested language is just for clarification.

Motion by Sean Barth, seconded by Tom O'Hanlon, to not add LWV Items 8-13 to the list.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

The Seminole Audubon Society recommendations were reviewed. It was determined Items 1 through 3 were already on the list. Discussion ensued regarding Item 4.

Motion by Tom O'Hanlon, seconded by Michelle Smith, to not add Seminole Audubon Society Item 4 to the list.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

The CRC list was reviewed and discussed.

Changing the County Commission election from Partisan to Non-Partisan

Motion by Tom O'Hanlon, seconded by Michelle Smith, to remove non-partisan elections from the list.

Ms. Bauer, Ms. Crotty, and Ms. Martz voted NAY.

All others members in attendance voted AYE.

The motion passes by a majority.

Section 2.2 (A) - Residency time requirements for County Commissioners

Motion by Michelle Smith, seconded by Angela Fleming, to remove residency time requirements for County Commissioners to the list.

All members in attendance voted AYE.

After discussion, it was requested Mr. Simmons continue researching the remaining items on the list for discussion at the next meeting.

- Section 2.2 (B) - Create an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- Section 2.2 (D) - Create a maximum dollar limit for when Economic Impact Statements are required.
- Section 3.2 - Delete Seminole County School Board Elections.
- Section 4.2 (B)(1) - Add alternate appointments to the CRC.
- Section 4.2 (B) - Change the requirement for meeting every six years to every ten years.
- Section 5.1 - Casino Gambling.
- Section 5.2 (B) - Rural boundary removal by voters by simple majority.
- Section 5.2 (c) - Change of density or intensity in rural areas changed by a super majority of BCC.
- New Section - County-owned parks, trails, and conservation areas cannot be sold, leased, or converted without 60% approval by voters.
- Section 5.4 - Create an ethics commission and ethics officer.

Next scheduled meeting date

Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the CRC, Chairman Horan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m., this same date.