

MINUTES OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
July 30, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Chair John Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Clallam County Courthouse, followed by the pledge of allegiance and roll call. Mickie Vail, Tom Shindler, and Patti Adler were absent.

Agenda Modifications/Adoption

Rod Fleck noted that the first item under New Business cannot be modified per RCW. Dave Cummins presented a paper on two new considerations – term limits and nomination and election by District.

Action: Norma Turner moved to delete the first bullet under New Business, Ken Wiersema seconded; motion failed

Approval of Minutes

Action: Rod Fleck moved to approve, Terry Roth seconded, motion carried

Correspondence/Public Comment

- Nelson Cone, 52 Hanusa Lane, Port Angeles, suggested the following wording for the proposed ballot question on instant runoff voting: "Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to permit the use of instant runoff voting, known sometimes as ranked choice voting, to elect County offices by a majority vote at a blanket general election in November without holding a separate primary election."

Old Business

- Scope of fund expenditures in connection with the generation, production, and advertising of a Voter's Pamphlet – Mark Nichols, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, notes that the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has advised him that public funds cannot be used to produce or disseminate voting information; it is a function of the County Auditor. Funds may be used to produce a fair and objective fact sheet and that one or more Commissioners could participate in the wordsmithing. The PDC will review the fact sheet to assure compliance.
- Creation of a Voter's Pamphlet – Nichols notes RCW 29A.32.280 sets forth the procedure through which the legislative body can appoint a committee to compose the pro and cons of proposed ballot measures. He presented the information to the Board of Commissioners who asked that the Commission forward names to them their consideration. The work must be completed no later than 45-days before the election.
- Elected Coroner – Terry Roth explained that Deb Kelly, Prosecuting Attorney, wants to create a death investigator/administrator position in her office.
Action: Terry Roth moved that the Chair draft a letter to the Board of Commissioners requesting they adequately fund the coroner responsibilities of the Prosecuting Attorney's office and that the Law and Justice Council be asked to explore permanent funding options, Dave Cummins seconded, motion carried

- Voting on New Taxes and Programs – Dave Cummins notes the original committee proposal was to specifically require the Board of Commissioners to force the issue of new taxes for new programs and it wasn't supported.
Action: Dave Cummins moved to put a definition into Section 8.20, that it shall not apply to new taxes for new programs that have not taken effect, Sue Forde seconded, motion failed

New Business

- Consideration/action to move one or more ballot titles to legal counsel for inclusion on the November Ballot
Action: Dave Cummins moved to present information on term limits, nomination and election by District, and a change to wording at 8.70 on the August 6 agenda, Rod Fleck seconded, motion failed
 - * Term Limits – Dave Cummins reported that 56 people asked for term limits.
Action: Dave Cummins moved to forward ballot measure on term limits to legal counsel, Terry Roth seconded, motion failed
 - * Nomination and election by District – Dave Cummins points out 60 people requested this change.
Action: Dave Cummins moved to forward ballot measure to nominate and elect Commissioners by District to legal counsel, Sue Forde seconded, motion failed
- Role of legal counsel in preparation of ballot titles and Charter provisions – Nichols explained that it is his responsibility to develop ballot titles and that he reserves the right to craft them as he sees fit. If the language he proposes doesn't adequately reflect the Commission's intent, then he needs to know.

Good of the Order

Action: Patti Morris moved to place Article 8.70 on the August 6 agenda for consideration, Dave Cummins seconded, motion carried
Rod Fleck asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the dedication of Fred Norton
Sue Erzen suggested scheduling future meetings to discuss a fact sheet

Announce Date/Location for Next Meeting

August 6, 2007 at 6:30 p.m., Clallam County Courthouse, Board Room

Adjournment

Dave Cummins moved to adjourn, Rod Fleck seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Trish Holden, CMC, Secretary
Charter Review Commission

Approved: August 6, 2007

