



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
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**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Lynwood Roberts Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall**

**September 6, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioners Lindsey Brock (Chair), Jessica Baker, Charles Griggs, Ann-Marie Knight, Emily Lisska, Celestine Mills, Betzy Santiago, Matt Schellenberg, William Gentry, Frank Denton, Nick Howland, Heidi Jameson

**Excused:** Commissioners Chris Hagan, Nelson McCoy

**Also:** Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Cheryl Brown – Council Secretary/Director; Anthony Baltiero – Council Research Division; Carol Owens and Jessica Matthews – Legislative Services Division

**Meeting Convened:** 9:02 a.m.

Call to Order – Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and asked for a moment of silence in honor of the people impacted by Hurricane Dorian.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Schellenberg requested a postponement of the approval of the previous meeting's minutes until the next meeting to give commissioners more time to review the minutes.

Remarks from the Chair – Chairman Brock provided an update on the presentation by Chris Hand. Due to Hurricane Dorian, the updated editions of "A Quiet Revolution" will be given out to the Commissioners at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chris Hand will be a guest speaker at the September 20<sup>th</sup> minutes to discuss the book and answer questions about consolidation. Chairman Brock discussed the procedures for inviting guest speakers.

Updates from Commissioners – Mr. Brock went around the room and asked each commissioner to provide any updates in regard to focus issues, guest speakers, and any additional updates:

- **Matt Schellenberg:** Mr. Schellenberg disagrees with Ms. Baker and believes that Independent Authorities should remain independent but wants to know more about the current issues surrounding JEA and the Plant Vogtle deal. Mr. Schellenberg talked about specifics of the deal including JEA considering nuclear and natural gas power. Mr. Schellenberg commented that

Vogtle units 1 and 2 are functioning incredibly well. Mr. Schellenberg discussed more specifics about a potential deal for nuclear power that would cost roughly \$100,000,000 a year for 20 years and talked about the issue with natural gas stemming from the fact that when the deal was struck in 2008 natural gas prices were very high, but soon after fracking came on board and natural gas prices dropped significantly. Mr. Schellenberg says that the Vogtle project was a good idea to diversify energy sources, but the drop in natural gas prices has made the deal less advantageous as time went on. The Vogtle Project units 3 and 4 could be successful if JEA decides to pursue a nuclear power contract over the next 20 years.

- Chairman Brock: How does this relate to the Charter?
- Matt Schellenberg: One of the commissions said that we should oversee what's going on at the independent authorities. The word "Independent" means something: "Independence" and should not be influenced by the Administration or City Council.
- Emily Lisska: Will anyone from JEA be coming out to speak to the Commission?
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock explained that he reached out to JEA and Aaron Zahn, JEA's CEO, wrote a letter back declining to come and speak to the commission. Mr. Brock asked Carol Owens of Legislative Services to pass out copies of Mr. Zahn's letter.
- Frank Denton: To add to what Mr. Schellenberg said, there is a difference between the substance of the decision made by JEA and the structure of JEA and its relationship to political leadership and the Charter. Mr. Denton makes it clear that he suggests that the Commission could look at the relationship between the independent authorities and the local government/Charter and not to review decisions by the board. Mr. Denton is shocked that Mr. Zahn declined to speak to the Commission.
- Chairman Brock: It is important to remember that we are not here to look at policy, but to look at the structure of government and how can we propose revisions to our Charter that will better local government. As we come up with topics, I'll ask where do we fix it in the Charter.
- Matt Schellenberg: I'm appalled that Mr. Zahn is not coming here. Could we collectively send another letter to Mr. Zahn strongly encouraging him to come and speak to the Commission?
- Chairman Brock: Seeing consensus in the commission, Mr. Brock will follow up with Mr. Zahn and possibly inviting other board members of JEA to come and speak to the Commission.
- Betzy Santiago: Have we reached out to the other independent authorities?
- Chairman Brock: Yes, we have reached out to the other independent authorities and there are no issues. We will have DCPS, Tax Collector Jim Overton, and Sherriff Williams come and speak to the Commission. The Port Authority said that they have no issues to discuss. Lori Boyer will come and speak regarding DIA, the Blueprint Report, and the creation of an Urban Core Investment Authority.
- Celestine Mills: Could we email JEA and ask them to come and talk about the relationship with the City? Mr. Zahn may be more inclined to come and speak on that specific topic and not feel that he will be attacked with questions about other policy issues.
- Chairman Brock: Sure, I will reach out and ask if Mr. Zahn will come to specifically talk about the relationship of JEA with the City.
- Charles Griggs: Reading this letter from Mr. Zahn, it seems like there was some sort of miscommunication because his response does not really address what we asked. Was there a possible miscommunication?

- Chairman Brock: Is it possible? Yes. No one else seems to have misunderstood the invitation letters because it was the same letter sent out to the other potential speakers.
- Emily Lisska: Prior to having JEA speakers come, could we have a staff member go through this section of the Charter that relates to JEA with the Commission?
- Paige Johnston (OGC): Ms. Johnston will reach out to the chief legal counsel working with JEA and see if they will come and talk about that section of the Charter.
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock suggests waiting until the commission hears from JEA's chief legal counsel before reaching back out to Mr. Zahn. After the review of the JEA section of the charter, the commission might have specific questions for Mr. Zahn which will help focus the scope of the request letter.
- Frank Denton: Since he is relatively new at his job, if Mr. Zahn keeps declining to speak with us, is there someone more knowledgeable of the history of the organization of JEA that could come and speak with us? What we need is the knowledge and not necessarily the appearance.
- Matt Schellenberg: JEA sends us \$120,000,000 in lieu of taxes so they are very interconnected with the City and the City is currently dependent on that relationship. I find it amazing that Mr. Zahn won't come and talk about how the City and JEA work together. JEA has committed 5 or 10 million dollars a year for storm water issues over the next couple of years to help us connect neighborhoods to the water system. To give you a heads up, you have three options that I'm aware of: Walt Bussells, Jim Dickenson, and Paul McElroy who were previous heads of JEA, that would be helpful. The Port Authority is connected to us because of a very bad deal made years ago where the City gives them roughly \$800,000 a year and it might not be enough to compete, and we need to figure out because that's a big portion of the economic activity of Jacksonville. We should know how it connects the City of Jacksonville and the Charter ultimately. On the airport, that is a new guy I can't remember, I think its "Van Loh". They actually, there was an article recently in the paper, their economic impact they said is \$8,000,000,000 to Jacksonville, the JEA. And so I think that although, and Michael Weinstein might have all of this information, but they're very connected and they own a lot of real estate and they're leasing real estate to their property which we don't get any money it goes directly to the city. They don't contribute anything back to us because it goes against the FAA rules. JTA, Matt Ford is unbelievably knowledgeable, not only about transportation because he was at Atlanta and he was also at San Francisco when Uber really got started and he would give us great insight about what he thinks will go forward with transportation with the City of Jacksonville. And the other thing is that we have a local option gas tax that they are very involved in the city. There's a lot of things going on with the independent authorities and we should have a better understanding of their relationship with the City going forward and it has everything to do with the Charter.
- Chairman Brock: When speaking with the Port Authority, they said that they didn't have anything specific that they wanted to address to the commission. Maybe it was Mr. Zahn's view that he didn't have anything specific to address to the Commission. Mr. Brock suggested that Commissioners send their questions to Carol Owens who will forward them to Mr. Brock so that he can get back in touch with the authorities and tell them that the Commission has specific questions for them to come and answer despite the independent authorities not having any specific issues of their own.

Presentation by Mike Weinstein – Mr. Weinstein provided a brief history of his professional background in the City of Jacksonville, including his 12 years as Executive Director of the State Attorney's Office under Mayor Ed Austin, Chief of Staff for Mayor Ed Austin, CFO for Mayor Ed Austin, CFO for Mayor

John Delaney, headed up the Economic Development Commission, did the lease to get the Jaguars and the Super Bowl application and was president of the Super Bowl entity, ran Take Stock in Children statewide, Florida House of Representative member for 4 years, and CFO for Mayor Curry dealing with the pension issue. Mr. Weinstein spoke about independent authorities and how they should all have similar citywide goals and not just individual goals for their respective authority. The top priorities of the City should be the top priority of the authorities so they are not competing against each other. Mr. Weinstein said that a recurring theme in his talk will be that authorities should give up a little bit of their own objectives for the bigger objective of the City. Mr. Weinstein suggested that the heads of the independent authorities should meet routinely with the Council President and Mayor to align goals and see what each other is doing. Mr. Weinstein spoke about the importance of central services using procurement as a positive example and suggests that Independent authorities that want to do things outside of central services weakens the consolidated government as a whole. Mr. Weinstein spoke about the positive impact that consolidation has had on services to the community outside of the government. Mr. Weinstein spoke about the Office of General Counsel and noted that the OGC is the glue to holds together consolidation and without the OGC, the government agencies would be endlessly suing each other. Mr. Weinstein gave a suggestion about changes that he would make to the OGC to lessen the appearance of the OGC being too close to a single agency. He suggested that the OGC have specific assistants assigned to all of the different agencies within the consolidated government. The General Counsel would be looked at more as an appellate court. The General Counsel would only serve for two years. Mr. Weinstein spoke about the division of power within the consolidated government. He talked about the strong mayor form of government and that it does work well and noted that the City Council acts as a responsive body responding to issues as they come up. Mr. Weinstein spoke about the timing of the City Council elections and how the setup plays into the strong mayor form of government. He closed by saying that there are areas of the consolidated government that can be tweaked or chipped away at, but that the structure itself should not be changed. Chairman Brock opened up the floor for questions:

- Matt Schellenberg: Mr. Schellenberg brought up a resolution that he presented in 2013 that would call together a council of government leaders to get everyone on the same page. Nothing came of the resolution, but Mr. Schellenberg believes that this is the way to get everyone together to move forward.
- Mr. Weinstein: There is a way for them to do that by coming together during the budget meetings and present how they are working toward their own goals and more importantly the goals of the city as a whole.
- Matt Schellenberg: Mr. Schellenberg noted that some of the independent authority leaders and university leaders get together, but the Mayor as the leader could bring everyone together quarterly to find out if everyone is working together for the benefit of Jacksonville. How do you make that happen on an ongoing basis and not just during budget hearings?
- Mr. Weinstein: It would take a change in culture from the top down. If the City came up with tangible 5-year goals, the Council could use the budget hearings to make sure that each agency is meeting their own goals and the 5-year City goals.
- Charles Griggs: Should the goals be set at the top levels of leadership to encourage other entities to get onboard with the City's goals?
- Mr. Weinstein: I think it is a good idea and worthwhile to set up goals that permeate through the community. You can get ideas from all over the community, but it can only be effective if enforced from the top levels of leadership.
- Charles Griggs: What ever happened to JEDC?

- Mr. Weinstein: All the economic entities of the community were consolidated into a single entity to avoid competing against each other. It was in place for some time before one of the Mayors got rid of the agency and all of the economic entities went their own way.
- Charles Griggs: In your time, where have you seen the priorities in funding? Specifically, as it relates to sections of the city that were left behind after consolidation.
- Mr. Weinstein: The City has to get past the idea of portions of the City being left behind after consolidation. If the City comes into money, we should invest in those areas with infrastructure. There's only one element of our social problems that impacts all of the other social ills and that is education. My priority would be in helping with education so that they are in a better life situation. Crime and safety are an important immediate issue, but in the long run supporting education is the best way to tackle a majority of the social problems in Jacksonville.
- Charles Griggs: All evidence says that the more you invest in troubled communities the more you eradicate the issues of concern.
- Mr. Weinstein: Mr. Weinstein said that he felt in the past and still believes that the biggest issue in Jacksonville is race relations. Investing in troubled areas should be a priority of every person and government.
- Frank Denton: Do you think something like the DIA would work for poorer areas of the city?
- Mr. Weinstein: An agency without resources won't do anything. We have tax increment districts all around town that I'm opposed to because it locks in funding to that particular area. I'm not a fan of isolating funds to a specific area. I don't suggest that we create another separate entity. It just needs to be a top priority of the community. If we get funds that are above the needs of our budget, I would use those funds in the poor areas that we are talking about.
- Frank Denton: Do you see a need for a change of the way the General Counsel is appointed?
- Mr. Weinstein: Not if it rotates every two years. If it stays the same and the General Counsel serves until unappointed, it can be perceived as being a bad thing, but I wouldn't change the way they are appointed.
- Frank Denton: Couldn't the General Counsel be appointed like a judge through a committee or panel?
- Mr. Weinstein: Once you get into that sort of thing you lose accountability to the people. Ultimately the Council and Mayor are accountable to the people.
- Frank Denton: Mr. Denton commented about Council Presidents only getting 6-7 months to push their agenda and that any change would be monumental.
- Mr. Weinstein: I meant that more in the resources area. Some Council Members were president for two years which takes away that issue. You could be much more proactive with a two-year Council President term, but you would have to compete with 18 other Council members to be president which could cause problems.
- Frank Denton: Do you think that there are other ways like a two-year term for Council Presidents to get their agenda going?
- Mr. Weinstein: No, not without doing big structural changes because the Council doesn't have the resources to do much more than react.
- W.C. Gentry: Stopping crime has been a goal of Jacksonville for a long time, but it is still a huge issue for the city. Education levels are a direct link to crime and poverty. I haven't seen specific goals, expectations, or metrics from the city to address crime and educational/poverty issues.

How do we set goals that are meaningful and transcend Administration to Administration? How do we use the Charter to set up a vehicle for these goals?

- Mr. Weinstein: I would pull out what we did in Mayor Ed Austin's time. It was a community-wide effort where everyone was invited and got together to discuss from large-scale ideas to specifics to get to community goals for economic development. It is very difficult to get something like this to transcend from Administration to Administration. The goals would have to be so engrained in the community that a politician would be at risk if they did not continue this type of action. There are many ways that independent Authorities can work toward the goals of the community without simply spending funds.
- W.C. Gentry: How do we deal with the entities not being able to challenge a binding opinion from the OGC? Should we do away with that language in the Charter?
- Mr. Weinstein: An entity can still file, but with an OGC attorney. This is why the OGC should operate more like an appellate court. If you could build in a process where the General Counsel could act like an appellate court, it would put to rest a lot of the criticism of the OGC.
- Celestine Mills: Ms. Mills spoke about the broken promises to certain communities post consolidation. How do you get the OGC to understand the importance of what's been going on for many years? Ms. Mills continued to speak about the inequities following consolidation. What happened with the Task Force on Crime? Where are the reports, what's happening? Are they just meeting to meet? Where is the accountability?
- Mr. Weinstein: The accountability comes every four years at the ballot box. There's only so much a government can do to address these issues. A lot of it is putting a band-aid on a much bigger issue. Dealing with these issues in the long-term has to come from the ground up through grassroots efforts. The Council and Mayor can only do so much, and this Council and Mayor has done a lot over recent years to try and address these issues.
- Betsy Santiago: If the independent authorities are already regularly meeting, why aren't they inviting the Mayor or City Council members to these meetings?
- Mr. Weinstein: The Mayor and Council may very well be a part of those meetings, I'm not sure. These meeting though are more of a "dog and pony" show where they are showcasing what they are doing. The meetings are happening, but they would need to be more focused on citywide goals.
- Betsy Santiago: In regard to central services, how long do some of the lower priority level entities have to wait before their priorities are addressed?
- Mr. Weinstein: You go down the list of agency priorities as far as you can until you run out of money. The priorities that need to get done get done, and the priorities that aren't a necessity tend to hardly ever get done.
- Betsy Santiago: If council member terms were extended, would it then be a good idea to have a two-year Council President term?
- Mr. Weinstein: That may be a way to get the Council more involved with citywide priorities. Eight years is a long time and everyone typically serves all eight years. I wouldn't change that, but I would change the timing of the elections so that ten new Council Members don't all come into office at the same time. A two-year presidency would be a good change, but you'd have to get the other eighteen members to support it.

- Charles Griggs: You don't think an Urban Core Investment Authority would work because there wouldn't be dedicated funding without some sort of Tax Increment District. You are against locked in funding for specific areas, but what about the DIA?
- Mr. Weinstein: Yes, I don't like the idea of locking funds into a particular area as it limits spending flexibility. The DIA is a bit different because the resources are city resources. The DIA are the services that are provided to outside individuals. The DIA sits as the front line to developers. Residents don't provide enough ad valorem taxes for the services that they require. The downtown core and employment centers provide more ad valorem than is needed. The taxes in struggling areas would need to be higher to meet the needs because there are no employment centers in the area like there are downtown. This makes the downtown core help everybody as it is developed which is why it needs the DIA. An Urban Core Investment Authority would be able to come up with priorities of issues to address, but they wouldn't have the funding because of the lack of ad valorem tax revenue.
- Nick Howland: Mr. Howland discussed the value of establishing a permanent coordinating commission focused on a single unifying mission and suggested that this area would be a good place to start when forming subcommittees.
- Emily Lisska: Do you think on any level that the Mayor has too many appointments?
- Mr. Weinstein: I don't know what an alternative would be. If an appointing authority isn't accountable to the people, it could cause problems. I wouldn't reduce the appointments.
- Emily Lisska: Clarify when you said that consolidation has delivered. There are areas like Mandarin that still aren't connected to city water and sewer.
- Mr. Weinstein: Consolidation has worked in many ways. Every year the utilities are addressed. Its moving in the right direction, but it depends on the budget. The community can come together and gather funds to address some of these issues.
- Emily Lisska: Are there any specific recommendations for us to consider regarding the Charter?
- Mr. Weinstein: Not specifically. The Charter has been a good foundation.
- Jessica Baker: I want to clarify, were you suggesting that we put something in the Charter to create an entity of government leaders to come together to establish citywide goals?
- Mr. Weinstein: It's two parts. All of the government agencies have to be on board with this entity. The other part is the community involvement with coming together to establish citywide priorities. I'm not exactly sure how to amend the Charter. I would consult with OGC on the language required to meet this goal and set this type of entity up.
- Jessica Baker: Ms. Baker spoke about the length of the previous General Counsels' terms. Do you think that your proposed two-year term for General Counsels will make a situation where there aren't enough applicants to keep filling the position mainly because the requirements are so high for the position?
- Mr. Weinstein: A proposal is too strong. I'm throwing the two-year term out to you guys as an idea to try and help alleviate some of the controversy around the OGC. I think that because the position of General Counsel is such a good thing for people's careers and that they know that they won't have to give up their private practice because they are only in the position for two years that there will be plenty of people interested in the position. If you're serious about changing the General Counsel's term, you should seriously consider changing the requirements for the appointment.

- Heidi Jameson: With a two-year General Counsel appointment, would the person be able to be re-appointed or is it a one term thing?
- Mr. Weinstein: It should just be a one term appointment. The person should have to be out a while before being eligible to be appointed again. You could come back, but there should be at least a four-year gap before you could come back as General Counsel.
- Heidi Jameson: In regard to the timing of elections, what would you suggest as a better election time?
- Mr. Weinstein: The easy answer is to make it part of the national elections. I would do it when the primaries and national elections are on or the gubernatorial election. Definitely have them when there are already existing elections.
- Heidi Jameson: In regard to having a DIA-like authority in the Northwest quadrant, you also mentioned having a budget for incentives. How might a budget be handled on a yearly basis?
- Mr. Weinstein: The positive is that they know what they have from the start. If projects come up that warrants funds above what they have, you could approach the council for more funds. It only takes ten votes. You make it thirteen votes or something a little higher than ten votes. From my experience, I have found that if everybody wants something, the government will make it happen somehow, especially when you can waive almost any ordinance that exists. You can even get around the Charter if you need to get around it. There are mechanisms to get there if the will is there. The budget, like everything else, is a priority system.
- Ann-Marie Knight: What's going to come out from what we share as recommendations? How do we gain the interest of the Mayor and Council to make the changes that we suggest?
- Mr. Weinstein: You have to look at your suggestions from their perspectives. You come up with great ideas as representatives of the community, but you have to sell them. As such, you might have to make little changes to the suggestions. You have to look at your suggestions from all different perspectives and then you've got to sell the heck out of them. You also have to think about unintended consequences of your suggestions.
- Matt Schellenberg: I think it's important to know actually what happens in council going forward. So, the power of the President of the Council, his power is the appointment of the chair of each of the five committees and mostly they align with what he wants to have done, but generally if the committee chair doesn't want something to get done, he can shut it down for a long time in spite of the pressure from his eighteen colleagues going forward. I think the council, generally speaking, they are on their own, and I have encouraged some of the previous Presidents to run for a second term, but I never encouraged all of them because you recognize who is on your side, which is they're supposed to represent the Council, no one else but the Council going forward. So, putting restrictions on having a President for two years, I'm not so in favor of it, but if the Council President is good, he's loved, he's represented the Council and is doing a good job working with the Mayor, but not always following his policies, then he can get reelected. Most of the time, obviously, the times that I made a recommendation they decided not to do it. Just a couple of questions, that TIF that you mentioned on the River City Marketplace that was not very successful for long periods of time and then all of a sudden it just exploded. I'm not sure why, but it just really took off, and you don't think the same thing will happen in Arlington?
- Mr. Weinstein: I'm hopeful that it will happen, but it takes a long time. Again, I'm opposed to locking in dollars to a particular area that limits the ability for the Mayor and Council to decide how to spend the budget. The airport one has been very successful. It could be around for another 10-20 years. Mr. Weinstein provided an example from his time in Tallahassee where a committee chair was unappointed due to a conflict with proposed legislation. He continued to explain that



the Council President in Jacksonville has the ability to unappoint a committee chair but doesn't think that it has ever happened here.

- Matt Schellenberg: Mr. Schellenberg noted that the Committee has the power to overrule the Chair, but that is a very rare occurrence. In regard to Ms. Lisska's comments about Mandarin, I believe this to be the case, the millage rate would be higher. I think that government closer to the people knowing that the money would stay in a specific area, they wouldn't object to a higher millage rate. By what is happening at the beaches, they are paying more in millage and getting services that the other parts of Duval County aren't and they're willing to do it because of the quality of life that they have.
- Mr. Weinstein: yes, but there are some areas that the millage would have to be so high because their ad valorem is so low that they wouldn't get anything done at all.
- Matt Schellenberg: My point is that there are pockets that it would work, I understand. Committees, the Mayor has appointments, the Council has appointments. There are 72 standing committees. Its almost impossible to fill it. Is that right Ms. Baker?
- Jessica Baker: They looked at that a year ago and there were only about 11 of them that Council could actually eradicate.
- Matt Schellenberg: I tried to dismantle a lot of them in my first term and I saw no bearing. This goes back to what's mentioned, we have that Task Force and I understand that those people spend a lot of time, and there has been no committee, and I talked to Mr. Denton about why it hasn't been. The committees are there and you're getting volunteers to do all of this work and they find that nothing happens. I very rarely put people on committees because I found that they didn't have any impact ultimately going forward and that is disappointing to the people that spent time and effort and their volunteer time to come and do good things going forward. You mentioned qualifications for OGC. They can be waived at any time, just like the previous two people that the Mayor has waived for various positions. So for OGC, those could be waived automatically and would have no impact what so ever.
- Mr. Weinstein: I thought they were in the Charter?
- Jessica Baker: They are in the Charter.
- Matt Schellenberg: Yeah, but you can waive them. You can always waive them with thirteen votes. And one other thing that I think is important as we go through this, and it came up in the last discussion when I asked Wyman Duggan if he had actually applied for the General Counsel position. He said he did not. It is partly because sometimes "inside baseball" meaning that they already have a candidate and that candidate is going to get the votes and so other people don't apply. There are many people that I have talked to that would gladly be General Counsel, but they feel that the frustration of getting the position and getting anything done in the position prevents them from getting involved. Also, there is a Railroad District on Beaver Street by the fishery. There's about 50-200 people involved gathering businesses to meet the needs of the area. So, individuals can do it if there's a substantial amount of people involved.
- W.C. Gentry: This may be an OGC question. What's the legal basis and procedures for waiving parts of the charter with thirteen votes of the Council?
- Paige Johnston (OGC): Ms. Johnston will look through the Charter and see what the legal basis and procedures are for waiving the Charter and get that information to the Commission.
- Chairman Brock: In regard to the OGC suggestion of being like an appellate court, the only liaison addition would be to the Mayor's office?

- Mr. Weinstein: The Mayor may already have a designated liaison internally, but it would have to be made official in an organizational chart.
- Chairman Brock: Could you set up something similar to “Visit FL” in the Northwest Quadrant where they are given a chunk of money to do something with or a variable percentage of money that could be changed?
- Mr. Weinstein: Yeah, a percentage of a revenue stream could work, something similar to KHA.
- Chairman Brock: What are your thoughts on a timetable for when the Strategic Commission should meet to bring the community together to discuss citywide goals?
- Mr. Weinstein: I think every five years it should be revisited because it transcends a single term. To me, five years is the right number.

Public Comments – Chairman Brock opened the floor up to public comments. There were two speakers, Stanley Scott and John Nooney:

- Stanley Scott: Mr. Scott spoke about his disappointment with City leadership.
- John Nooney: Mr. Nooney spoke about various topics including the DIA, CRAs, and waterways. He submitted multiple documents to be included in the record.

Commission Discussion – Chairman Brock opened the floor to general discussion about issues that were discussed in this meeting or any issues or topics that the commissioners feel should be discussed:

- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock spoke about upcoming speakers and the time impacts that it would have if there were multiple speakers on the same day. Mr. Brock will work on rescheduling speakers.
- Emily Lisska: Ms. Lisska noted that Mike Hogan (Supervisor of Elections) declined to come and speak and would rather communicate via email. Are we going to communicate with speakers that decline via email? If so, what would be the procedure?
- Chairman Brock: If you have specific questions, send them to Carol Owens. I will send an email to him and say that these are the specific questions that we want to address and try to get him to come and speak with the Commission.
- Matt Schellenberg: Mr. Schellenberg mentioned that he finds it rude that elected officials are not willing to come and speak to the commission. He made the point that it is not the specific question that is asked, but when a person is here answering questions, other may be inspired to ask additional questions in the moment based on the answers. He mentioned Mr. Zahn of JEA as another example of people who should come and speak to the Commission and that if these individuals decline to speak in person that it should be noted on the record. He stated that if they don’t want to come speak that it shows that they don’t know the answers to the questions or simply don’t want to answer the questions.
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock will go back to the individuals that have declined to come and speak and urge them to reconsider.
- Heidi Jameson: Should we be sending questions now or should we wait until we invite them to speak again?
- Chairman Brock: If you know specific questions, that might help me persuade them to come and speak. I will reach out to those that declined with a more specific ask for them to appear.

- W.C. Gentry: Mr. Gentry spoke about the possibility of misunderstandings between the Commission and the requested speakers. He also made the suggestion of involving the Council President, who controls the budget of some of these speakers (specifically Mike Hogan), if they continue to decline.
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock said that he will go back to those that declined and make it clear that even though you do not have any particular issues to address to the Commission, we have specific issues and questions that we want to address to you in person.
- Celestine Mills: Ms. Mills made the point that if we start to make concessions and agree to communicate with some speakers via email that other speakers may want to decline and just participate via email.
- Betzy Santiago: Should we have a representative from the non-profit center to talk about what they are doing and how the Charter revisions impact their work? Is there a way for the public to get more involved since everyone can't come to these meetings?
- Chairman Brock: We have the "CRC@coj.net" email address.
- Matt Schellenberg: Should we have a head from the City owned hospital come to talk about what they are doing to engage the community? Maybe we could have Peter Racine of the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation come and speak.
- Chairman Brock: How do we see the non-profit people fitting in with the Charter?
- Matt Schellenberg: There needs to be more consolidation of the non-profits. We need to bring more people together to see if there is any overlap and to be more specific about what they are doing going forward.
- Chairman Brock: Because we have a limited time to determine priorities and break down into subcommittees, how does the non-profits fit into the charter?
- Charles Griggs: Mr. Griggs suggested that hearing from non-profits working in the Urban Core could talk about how funding and investments are used at the ground level. Mr. Griggs also suggested hearing from the director of the County Public Health Department.
- Chairman Brock: If you have speakers that you want to hear from, get their contact information and send it to Carol Owens.
- Heidi Jameson: How do we make sure all of the speakers are heard based on our priorities before we break into subcommittees in November?
- Chairman Brock: My goal was to have goals set by the end of September, but with the number of topics and speakers that we have we either have to meet more often or meet longer or pare down the list of speakers.
- Charles Griggs: Today we had one speaker and that might be the reason why it took a long time. With multiple speakers and under your leadership, we should be able to hear them speak, ask a few questions, and keep it moving.
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock noted that they have five speakers for the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and that he will go through and reschedule some of those speakers. The group discussed some of the possible alternatives for having multiple members of the Duval Legislative Delegation speak. It was suggested to just get the chair and if needed and time permitted to have the additional members come and speak.
- W.C. Gentry: Mr. Gentry suggested to have OGC present when Mr. Fischer of the Duval Delegation discusses how his proposed J Bill relates to the FL Constitution.

- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock spoke about OGC participation from the previous Charter Revision Commission as it relates to the School Board issue. Mr. Brock is hesitant to address issues that are currently being debated in legislation.
- W.C. Gentry: Mr. Gentry spoke on the Charter's ability to go above state law and again asked for OGC clarification on the issue.
- Chairman Brock: Mr. Brock spoke about the speakers that are going to be coming to the next meeting, and said that he will reach out to them.

Chairman Brock ended the meeting and stated that the next meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:51 a.m.

Minutes: Anthony James Baltiero, Council Research Division  
abaltiero@coj.net (904) 255-5157  
9.11.19 Posted 3:00 p.m.