

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**CITYWIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - amended**

**Don Davis Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**February 6, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.**

**In attendance:** Commissioners Betzy Santiago (Chair), W.C. Gentry, Emily Lisska

**Excused**: Chris Hagen

**Also**: Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Juliette Williams and Ladayijah Nichols – Legislative Services Division; Steve Cassada – Council Staff Services

**Meeting Convened**: 9:08 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January 23, 2020 committee meeting were **approved unanimously as distributed**.

Review of proposed recommendation

Commissioner Gentry discussed his recommended amendments to the original draft proposal presented at the last meeting. His edits are primarily in the Purpose of the Strategic Plan paragraph to simplify and clarify the statement and in the Membership paragraph to reflect the composition of the committee as discussed at the last meeting - the 5 at-large City Council members, the City’s Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer (with the CFO acting as chair of the committee), the Sheriff or his/her chief assistant and the School Superintendent or his/her chief assistant. He asked for consideration of putting a mayoral appointee representing children’s health and development issues and a Council President appointee representing the river and the natural environment onto the committee rather than being on the Advisory Committee. After discussion there was consensus to add a Council President appointee representing the St. Johns River and the natural environmental issues and a mayoral appointee representing the interests of children, for a total of 11 members.

The group discussed the membership of the Advisory Committee. There was discussion about the appropriate person to chair that committee and whether the Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce or the President of the Chamber is the proper person. Commissioner Lisska volunteered to speak to current Chamber President Daniel Davis about who he thinks would be the appropriate person to serve as chair. After further discussion the decision was made to recommend the President of the Chamber as the Chair because that person is a permanent employee rather than holding a one-year term and because the President has a staff that can assist in the work that will be entailed in chairing the committee.

Paige Johnston cautioned the committee that once the Advisory Committee is appointed its members will be subject to Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Law and that may impact on the ability of the members to discuss their normal day-to-day work with other members of the committee outside of a properly noticed public meeting.

Commissioner Santiago advocated for using broader rather than more specific language with regard to representing various aspects of the community (i.e. a representative of minority business interests rather than the President of the African-American Chamber of Commerce; representatives of the major local colleges and universities rather than the presidents of specific institutions). Commissioner Gentry suggested making the Advisory Committee widely representative of the community as a whole, inviting many people to participate whether they ultimately choose to or not. Ms. Santiago felt that a smaller commission would be more manageable, and could then host meetings on topic areas (higher education, the non-profit community) that bring subject matter experts together temporarily to provide expertise and advice.

The committee agreed on recommending the following membership for the Advisory Committee:

* President of the Chamber of Commerce (serving as Chair of the committee)
* Mayoral appointee representing the arts and cultural issues
* Mayors of Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach and the Town of Baldwin
* Chair of the Kids Hope Alliance board
* Director of the Duval County Health Department
* One representative of the CPACs selected by the CPAC Advisory Committee
* Board chairs of each of the independent authorities (JEA, JPA, JTA, JAA, JHA)
* Presidents of UNF, JU, EWC and FSCJ
* President of the Urban League
* President of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP
* Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Regional Council
* CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida
* One representative of Navy Region Southeast designated by the Region Commander
* A representative of each racial demographic comprising at least 5% of the City’s population as reported in the latest U.S. decennial census.
* The Chair of the Strategic Planning Commission may appoint up to 5 additional members to assure diversity and inclusive membership of all major stakeholders and interests of the Consolidated City of Jacksonville.

Commissioner Gentry asked if staff would craft some draft language about how the Advisory Commission would be organized and function for the committee to consider. Ms. Santiago will take Mr. Gentry’s proposed revisions and the minutes of today’s meeting and compile a revised recommendation document to be circulated to the committee members for further refinement at the next meeting.

Committee Discussion

Chairwoman Santiago asked if the committee wanted to reach out to the City Council members to inform them about the proposed recommendation and ask for their reaction. The group decided to hold off on doing that until a recommendation is finalized.

Ms. Santiago asked the committee’s opinion on whether to request an extension of the Charter Revision Commission’s authorization for the purpose of taking up Office of General Counsel and JEA issues. Ms. Lisska was in favor of that proposal. Commissioner Gentry said he had a noticed meeting yesterday with Commissioners Schellenberg, Denton and Brock to discuss those two issues and the consensus of that group was that the issues are so important and have been so much in the news lately that the CRC will be expected by the general public to make some comment on them. Tracy Arpen, a retired attorney from the General Counsel’s office, suggested applying a portion of the judicial code of conduct to the General Counsel with regard to a prohibition against certain political activities to emphasize the General Counsel’s quasi-judicial role, among several other potentially simple recommendations. Ms. Santiago suggested that if the full commission wants to take up those issues, it appoint a new subcommittee to tackle that task and that the full commission take up any recommendations it may produce when their process is complete.

Commissioner Gentry asked about how the strategic planning commission would be funded. Ms. Johnston said that other commissions have language in their charter documents requiring staff (i.e. an executive director) and leaving the decision on funding to the City Council.

Public Comment

John Nooney quoted from the purpose of the Strategic Planning Commission. He requested the CRC to propose a charter amendment requiring the DIA, CRAs, the proposed Urban Core Development Authority and other City-affiliated entities to mandate public access to waterways in any publicly funded project. He also recommended that the CRC bring in speakers who can advocate for the waterways to inform the commission (St. Johns Riverkeeper, Kay Ehas of [delete Greenworks] Groundworks Jax, Dockmaster Jim Suber).

Next meeting

February 13, 2020, 1:00 to 3:00. The meeting previously listed for February 14th was canceled.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:54 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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