

**Broward County Charter Review Commission  
Facilitated Workshop  
September 13, 2006**

**Mills Pond Park Recreation Center  
Wilton Manors, FL**

## **Introduction**

The Broward County Charter Review Commission (CRC) is at the beginning of a two-year review of the Broward County Charter. This process will culminate in recommended revisions that will go to ballot in 2008.

At the onset of this process, the CRC determined that a facilitated workshop would be beneficial in understanding the issues each member brings to the process as well as in organizing the process and agendas for future meetings. The CRC engaged Julia Trevarthen, Director of the Institute for Community Collaboration at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, to design the process and facilitate the workshop.

This is a summary of the input received from the CRC during the facilitated portions of the September 13, 2006 workshop. Official attendance and other records of this CRC meeting should be obtained directly from CRC staff.

These were the objectives for the workshop:

- Establish baseline knowledge about the current Charter
- Receive information about applicable statutes & rules governing the CRC
- Receive recommendations from the Broward County Management & Efficiency Study Committee
- Gather input & discuss issues of concern to the CRC Members
- Establish the overall process & guidelines for the CRC

## **Issues of Concern to the Members**

Ms. Trevarthen stated that it was understood that the CRC members come to this process with an initial set of issues of concern and that this was the time to get those issues on the table. However, since this is the beginning of the process, it is also understood that the CRC members' concerns and opinions may change during the process.

The following were listed as issues of concern or things to be considered in the charter review process. These are listed in the order received; no priority ranking should be assumed.

- Broward MPO Authority
- Review of constitutional officers (including the Supervisor of Elections)
- Requiring a super-majority vote for certain County Commission decisions
- Impact fees for development

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- Intergovernmental coordination concerning the repair of traffic signals, signage, facilities after an emergency such as a hurricane
- Recommendations from the Management and Efficiency Study Committee (MESOC)
- Transportation including airport(s) and seaport
- Ethics
- Land use and religious facilities - how located and permitted
- Compensation for the County Commission
- Duties of the Mayor
- Unincorporated areas
- Broward County Planning Council authority
- All things voting
- Number of County Commissioners
- Shifting land use authority to municipalities
- Strong Mayor
- Redistricting - how and when
- Should some County Commission members be elected at-large?
- Fire Rescue coordination - Chief?
- Emergency management
- Charter review process and Commission
- Building and construction issues - Central Examining Board, etc.
- Permitting and development review process
- County authority over special districts including, but not limited to: water, redevelopment, hospital, children's services
- Courts
- County's land use conflicts with municipalities, including the platting process
- Develop an overall calendar for the CRC's work
- Census issues - mid-decennial redistricting
- Budget and finance
- Coordination between Constitutional offices and Charter offices
- Advisory board or committee dealing with cultural diversity
- Health and social services
- Livable wage policy for the County
- Recommendations from the Vision Broward process
- How County government is organized
- How and when to handle public input into the CRC process
- How to effectively solicit public input
- Accessibility to the CRC and its process

To get a sense of the distribution of issues across the Articles of the current Charter, CRC members discussed where each issue might correspond with an Article. Articles 2, 3, and 8 had the most potential issues associated with them; Articles 6 and 5 had the next most; followed by the remaining Articles.

## Discussion about Organization and Procedure

The CRC members had a number of questions and observations about how the charter review process would be organized. In the order received, these were the CRC's questions and observations.

- Are these all the issues?
- Do we need additional background information from the County government, other governments, the Broward League of Cities, the construction and development industry, the public, and the legislative delegation?
- Should background presentations be organized by topic?
- What are strategies to get the public to participate? Cable channels, culturally appropriate outreach, Chambers of Commerce, others?
- The former County Administrator, County Attorney, and County Auditor should speak to the CRC.
- There should be more than one opportunity to provide input at the beginning
- Work with established advocacy groups such as Vision Broward, People for Progress, the MESC, etc.
- Don't reinvent the wheel - use recent databases and survey results from previous groups
- Invite previous CRC members to speak.
- Need to find a way to explain what the charter is and why citizens should care what's in it. Clearly explain how and why decisions made about the charter affect them.
- Develop an "infomercial" about the charter review process to run on local access cable channels. Provide it in English, Spanish, and Creole.
- What should be the core organization of the work?
- Should there be subcommittees? One to develop a public outreach strategy could complete work sooner than using the whole Commission.
- Look at regional service delivery such as transportation, human services, etc.
- Look at the other duties and powers of the County
- The CRC should receive background information first

CRC staff stated that they would take these into account in laying out the overall schedule and process.

## Overall Process and Guidelines for the CRC

The CRC needs to establish an overall process and guidelines for the conduct of its work through the charter review process. Rather than start again from scratch, the CRC reviewed the *Rules of Voting and Procedure* that were developed and adopted by the previous CRC. Copies were provided to CRC members in their packets. The facilitator led the participants through discussion of each of the rules. Participants had clarifying questions for the CRC Counsel, Samuel Goren, which he answered. Before making a decision, the CRC discussed several other process issues.

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**CRC Regular Meetings:** At the CRC's first meeting, the second Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Broward County Government Center was set as the standard date, time, and location for regular CRC meetings. CRC members revisited this schedule, providing the following observations and questions:

- Should some meetings be held at times and locations more convenient to the public?
- Does this have to be set today?
- Instead of meeting across the middle of the day, meeting in the morning or afternoon would be more convenient for those who have to take time off from their jobs to participate.
- Is two hours long enough?

After discussion, the CRC members decided the following. Regular CRC meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at locations around the County.

**Tardiness:** the discussion turned to whether there should be a formal rule about tardiness. After some discussion the CRC members decided not to adopt a formal rule at this time, but to leave the possibility open should this become an issue in the future.

**CRC Spokesperson:** Who should be the spokesperson for the CRC and what role should they play? After discussing the matter, the CRC decided on the following. The Chair of the CRC will be the primary point of contact / official spokesperson; however, the Chair will be able to designate the Executive Director or another CRC member as needed. Whenever the Chair or any other member of the CRC speaks about the process they must make clear whether they are representing a CRC position or their own position.

At this point, CRC members decided to use the *Rules of Voting and Procedure* as drafted for the previous CRC with the addition of a new section dealing with the issue of CRC spokesperson. Mr. Goren stated that he would draft this new rule and bring back the revised complete draft for CRC action at its next meeting in October.

This marked the end of the facilitated portion of the CRC Workshop. The facilitator returned the meeting to Chair Moseley for her closing remarks.