

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MINUTES

A meeting of the Suffolk County Charter Revision Commission was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on April 30, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sondra Bachety - Chairperson/PO Lindsay's Appointment
Dennis McCarthy - Vice Chair/Joint Appointment
Arthur Cliff - PO Lindsay's Appointment
Victor Fusco - PO Lindsay's Appointment
Steven Kenny - PO Lindsay's Appointment
Ronald Devine - PO Lindsay's Appointment
Roger Clayman - Joint Appointment
Thomas Germano - Joint Appointment
Marlene Israel - Joint Appointment

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

William Shilling - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
Judy Blank, Suffolk County Law Department

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:51 PM*)*

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Good afternoon everybody. We have a quorum present.

Before we start I would like to read into the record a letter from Edwin Perez. *On February 2nd, 2009 I was appointed Director of Community Service by County Executive, Steve Levy. I am therefore no longer eligible to serve as a member of Charter Review Commission. Please accept my resignation effective immediately. It has been an honor to serve. And I wish you and the Commission the best as you complete your mission.* So Mr. Perez is no longer on.

Okay. You all have received a copy of the preface that was written for the Commission. A couple of months ago I asked if anyone had any changes, suggestions, additions, anything at all that they were interested in. We also had a letter sent out or an e-mail several weeks ago reminding you. And we're now ready to get to the conclusion of this.

Bill Schilling and Mike have prepared a folder, if any -- which I'll shall pass around, it has the preface in it. It will need a letter from us as Commission members, you know, saying what it is. But in here are the minutes. There are the testimony of the -- all the people who spoke. So let me just pass this around so you can see it. And unless there's any changes, does anyone have anything they'd like to add or say? I think we're on our way to finishing this. So anyone have anything they want to --

MR. GERMANO:

Just a point of information on this preface that's going to -- on the preface, is this going to be included in the report?

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

It's the first part of the book you'll see. It's right next to you.

MR. GERMANO:

So there are like just a couple of little typos. I had one question though.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Yes.

MR. GERMANO:

We refer to us as the Charter Revision Commission on page one. And then the Charter Review Commission on page two. Should that be consistent or is it --

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

No, it has to be consistent and it will be corrected, yes.

MR. GERMANO:

And then the other thing is just in three paragraphs up from the bottom on page two, where it says *a critical rule*, I'm convinced that probably means role, a critical role. Town and village is the sentence. Town and village governments and, I don't know, maybe *village* whether or not it's capitalized. Again, these are just little housekeeping --

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

No, those are important. Thank you.

MR. GERMANO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. Do you have those, Mike? Okay, anyone else notice anything? Have any changes they would like included? Do you all just want to take a moment to look at it again?

On page one, Mr. Fusco pointed out that *the testimony of all elected officials* is a new paragraph that needs to be corrected.

MR. FUSCO:

Give a space.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Space. You can see it at the bottom of page one.

MR. FUSCO:

That really should be on the next page. It's the last line.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. Anybody else? Is there anything at all you're not comfortable with? That you want phrased differently? Anything? Do you want to just -- this is just to give you an idea. Other than including a letter from the Commission, that is how it would look. There's an index after the preface. You may want to just take a look at that just so you see. Can we tab those when we do it?

MR. SHILLING:

What?

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Can we tab those when we do it?

MR. SHILLING:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay, okay.

MR. SHILLING:

Ron, not all the minutes are in there.

MR. DEVINE:

Oh, okay.

MR. SHILLING:

It's just the testimony of the electives and commissioners.

MR. DEVINE:

Okay.

MR. SHILLING:

And some union people that were asked to come before the -- or asked to come before the committee.

MR. DEVINE:

Gotcha. Okay.

MR. SHILLING:

The minutes themselves are all -- will be online on -- at the Legislature's website, web page.

MR. DEVINE:

Okay. I just want to show where we were actually reading this.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

That's good, that's good.

MR. SHILLING:

And we will put that in the report, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Dennis, ask the --

MR. MC CARTHY:

Yeah, is the format pretty much the same as -- is the format pretty much the same as ten years ago?

{Marlene Israel entered the meeting}

MR. MC CARTHY:

It is, huh? Yeah.

MR. SHILLING:

Yes, it is. Yeah. Ten years ago they had a lot more -- they had committees, you had subcommittees. You really didn't have that this time. So when you look at the body of work it's not as -- there's not as much in there. The recommendations came down to, pretty close.

MR. PITCHER:

Pretty much the same amount of recommendations.

MR. MC CARTHY:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

I just want to make it easy for the members of the Legislature to read the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission. Because they have to -- it's does begin on the second page, but if you tab it or something you've got to make sure they see the recommendations.

MR. SHILLING:

The recommendations, yes. Okay.

MR. PITCHER:

You may be having more of an effect than the last Charter --

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Excuse me, I can't hear you.

MR. PITCHER:

You may be having more of an effect than the last Charter Review Commission because one of your recommendations is currently before the Legislature.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Which one?

MR. PITCHER:

The one to remove the -- to make the Park Trustees an advisory board.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Oh, excellent.

MR. PITCHER:

Legislation has been submitted to do that.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

It has?

MR. PITCHER:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Oh, good.

MR. PITCHER:

Yeah.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. That's good.

MR. SHILLING:

In fact they had a public hearing just this past Tuesday on that resolution.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Oh, too bad. We could've had --

MR. PITCHER:

Well, you know, the vote is still upcoming. And I certainly shared -- I shared with the County Legislators, you know, that it was one of the recommendations that was going to be in the report.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Oh, you did.

MR. PITCHER:

I did.

MR. SHILLING:

Yes, they're aware of that.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Good job, Mike.

MR. PITCHER:

Yeah.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Thank you very much.

MR. MC CARTHY:

Thank you, Mike.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

We appreciate you protecting our turf.

MR. PITCHER:

Well, when I heard that the last time none of the recommendations were adopted, I was very impressed.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. That's good.

MR. MC CARTHY:

This might be the first one that was ever adopted in the history of the County.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Marlene, we're just reviewing to make sure if there's anything at all that you feel --

MS. ISRAEL:

Thank you, I'm fine. And I apologize for being late today.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

No, no, that's okay. I just want to make sure you understand where we are. Giving everybody a couple of minutes to review and then --

MR. CLIFF:

I'm bringing you over the book.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. Could I just ask how they -- the Presiding Officer would like this presented to them. I assume we'll finish it. We'll do the letter. I'll send a copy so everybody could see it to make sure you approve before we put it in the final format. How does he want us to handle it?

MR. SHILLING:

I am -- let us -- we'll talk to Presiding Officer. And then we'll e-mail out to you how he would like to have it presented to the Legislature.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay.

MR. SHILLING:

And that's --

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

I mean, obviously you can put it online and then they can all see it, but --

MR. SHILLING:

Yeah.

MR. FUSCO:

I think the Chairwoman comes and reads it.

LAUGHTER

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Oh, get out.

MR. SHILLING:

We could recommend that.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

No, no.

MR. FUSCO:

The Chair could designate somebody.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

No, no.

MR. MC CARTHY:

On the Friday of 4th of July weekend.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Yeah, right.

MR. MC CARTHY:

At three o'clock in the afternoon.

LAUGHTER

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. All right. So am I to assume, please, correctly that everyone feels that this is a representation of the meetings that we've had and your input and you're all pleased with it. Yes?

MR. MC CARTHY:

Yes.

MR. DEVINE:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Yes. Okay. That being the case, the next thing we'll do is we'll send you a copy of the letter that will accompany this and what the procedure's going to be as presenting it, if it's -- if they want a formal presentation as opposed to just giving kind of giving it to them, yes.

MR. FUSCO:

I make a motion we accept this as our -- this preface as our report.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay.

MR. FUSCO:

A preface to our report.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Fusco to accept the papers that have been submitted as our final report. Do we have a second?

MR. MC CARTHY:

I'll second it.

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Okay, Dennis. Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? No? Okay. **(VOTE: All said yes, no opposed).**

Well, I think that, believe it or not, concludes our business. And once we have made the final presentation to the Presiding Officer, you'll all be thanked, I'm sure. And I thank you all very much. It's been great working with all of you. So other than that, thank you all very much and I --

MR. MC CARTHY:

And thank you, Sondra, for leading us.

APPLAUSE

CHAIRWOMAN BACHETY:

Well, I came back from Florida for you because I love Suffolk County. I do. So thank you all again very much. Have a lovely week. Enjoy. Thank you. It's been fun.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 3:05 PM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY