

Minutes  
Charter Review Commission  
Human Services, Education, Recreation and Culture  
December 19, 2005

Attendance: Commissioners, Donna E. Rice, Ronald Smith, Joan Lillis, and George Arthur. County Attorney Larry Rubin was in attendance as Guest Speaker  
Absent: Commissioner Conway Porter

The third meeting of the committee was called to order at 8:09 AM

The minutes of the December 5, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved without change. It was requested that a copy of all future minutes be forwarded to John Davis in the EC Legislative Office for filing.

Commissioner Lillis circulated a list of all county departments, their commissioners and phone numbers.

Discussion occurred regarding 'succession planning' for department heads and the County Executive. Mr. Rubin gave valuable input.

Discussion occurred regarding the CGR Report entitled Blueprint for Change. Mr. Rubin commented that implementation of several recommendations from the report had already begun with Mr. Michael Weiner, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, serving in a consolidating role. Mr. Rubin recommended further implementation. It was recommended that Mr. Weiner be asked to be present at the next meeting of the Committee on January 9<sup>th</sup>. It was also determined that representation from EC Community Coordinating Council on Child & Family Services be at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner asked Mr. Rubin to check with County Executive Giambra as to the availability of Commissioners Newman and Porter to serve on the commission since they have not been in attendance.

A discussion occurred pertaining to the Erie County Library System. Mr. Rubin explained that the county only owns one library – the 'main' library. All others are contract libraries with separate boards. Centralizing the system was accomplished via State legislation which created a county wide system and a central library board. The towns own the buildings while the county controls the funding for books and personnel. To implement change in the system beyond funding levels would probably require State legislation. A charter revision could include some sort of accountability reporting for the funding provided if that was desired.

A discussion occurred regarding the expansion of responsibility in the information technology and communications area.

Commissioner Lillis will contact the Office of the Disabled to ascertain if the county has conducted a survey of buildings recently.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 8:00 AM on 1/9

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald P. Smith, Commissioner