



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MINUTES

Government Center
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Date: April 8, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Public Meeting Room
Adjacent to Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig Valvo at 5:04 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Chair Craig Valvo - District E
Vice Chair Alex Escoriza - District D
Jonathan Ahlbum - District A
David Mintzes - District B
Mohammed Razib - District C

Also present: City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh, Deputy City Attorney Kathy Mehaffey, and City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn.

City Attorney Pyburn noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present and explained the procedures for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING(S). (2025-0319)

MOTION: Ahlbum/Escoriza – To approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2025, Charter Review Board Meeting, as presented.

The Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

4. REVIEW OF POTENTIAL CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Chair Valvo and Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey reviewed the backup documents provided by staff, including the Charter Review Board potential changes and issues list and City Code provisions regulating boards.

Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey opened the discussion on Single Member Districts. She provided a brief overview of the previous discussion and noted the decision to wait for a full Board prior to proceeding. Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey explained the process for initiating a recall under a Single Member District. Chair Valvo stated there would be four (4) Districts in the future, and the question that was posed was whether each District should vote for its own representative. He advised that, based on the discussion in previous meetings and feedback gathered in the community, he had reconsidered his position on the change. He pointed to the low number of voters needed to recall a Commissioner. Discussion continued.

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Board Member Mohammed Razib commented that the issue came down to whether Municipal Elections were in March or November, in part because of party affiliation and voter education. He suggested that the Board entertain moving the election to November rather than waiting to see what may happen on the State level, as the increased turnout of voters would make the at-large election make sense.

Chair Valvo shared feedback received from a Commissioner who had been in Tallahassee regarding the eventuality of the State mandating the election be held in November. He stated the change seemed to be an eventuality and noted the Board had discussed allowing that process to take its course. City Attorney Pyburn provided additional details on the legislation and Commissioner Rydell's report on his conversation with the sponsor. She stated this did not prohibit the Board from recommending a change to the Municipal Election from March to November. She pointed out that the change could not take place prior to the March 2029 election due to the recent referendum and outlined the details of the associated term adjustments previously made. Discussion continued. Consensus was to leave as-is and not move forward with Single Member District language.

Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey directed the Board to page 13 of the Charter Review Board running list for discussion of outstanding topics related to boards. She advised that currently there were no limitations on the number of times someone could serve on a board, and Commissioner Wasserman had asked the Board to consider limiting the number of consecutive terms. She stated right now, terms were one (1) year, and previous discussion had been that two (2) year terms may be more appropriate. Chair Valvo asked if changes would apply to any board or committee in the City, or only those in the Charter. Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey stated it would apply to the Parks and Recreation Board and Planning and Zoning Board, because the Civil Service Board was already a two (2) year term. She noted these were laid out in City Code, not the Charter, so it would be a recommendation to the Commission unless the Board chose to add it to the Charter. City Attorney Pyburn advised that the Redistricting Board and Charter Review Board had separate terms.

Chair Valvo inquired as to whether newly-created boards would be included, or if additional language needed to be added to clarify. Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey reviewed the referenced sections and stated new boards would be covered.

Vice Chair Escoriza commented on his experience on the Planning and Zoning Board. He stated he was cautious of extending terms due to the potential for absences and noted that it did take a little while to get up to speed. Chair Valvo pointed out there was nothing keeping a Commissioner from reappointing. Vice Chair Escoriza noted the board member would have to apply for the position. Discussion continued. City Attorney Pyburn provided additional details on attendance requirements and terms.

Chair Valvo stated he did not see the need to change the terms to two (2) years, as the ability to make a term two (2) years already existed. He posited whether term limits were necessary. The Board discussed potential scenarios, existing protections, and the benefit of making space for more people to get involved.

Vice Chair Escoriza stated he was comfortable with leaving the length of terms as-is. He noted Mr. Razib had previously brought up additional boards and asked if there was any further to consider. Mr. Razib stated his suggestion had been for an educational board, but the functions may have been already covered. He explained his concern had been how to be proactive to ensure the younger generation gets involved and brings their innovative ideas. He added that as long as the City had initiatives to address those areas,

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he was fine.

Vice Chair Escoriza noted there had also been comments related to qualifications to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. He reviewed the provisions for service on a board and discussed his own background briefly and suggested the addition of a specialty in economic development. Chair Valvo agreed this would expand the pool of applicants.

Chair Valvo stated a Commissioner had raised the question as to whether other boards should be codified in the Charter and asked whether that point had been adequately addressed. Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey stated based on the discussions she had heard the Board had addressed the issue. She noted the Planning and Zoning Board was in the Charter due to Statutory requirements. Discussion continued.

Board Member David Mintzes commented that there had been a suggestion regarding prohibiting service on more than one (1) board at a time, but he did not see a need for that. He noted the positions were filled by volunteers.

Chair Valvo pointed out differences in requirements for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Board, including residency. Discussion ensued regarding eligibility of non-residents, who own businesses in Coconut Creek, to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey explained this was a change made by the Commission in 2019. Discussion continued regarding residency.

Consensus was to recommend experience in economic development be added as a qualification for the Planning and Zoning Board in Code Section 13-16(b)1. City Attorney Pyburn confirmed there were no further changes to the boards section.

Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey advised that the next issue was whether to move elections to November. Chair Valvo stated his concern was that if the elections were moved to November, this would cause an uproar and require staff time to draft language, and then the State preemption required additional changes. City Attorney Pyburn reviewed concerns with alignment of the legislation and the City's recent referendum and stated staff was hopeful that would be worked out in the drafting of the State language. Discussion continued regarding the pending legislation.

Vice Chair Escoriza asked when the residents would vote on changes proposed by this Charter Review Board. City Attorney Pyburn advised the vote would be scheduled for November 2026.

Chair Valvo asked if the Commission could vote to shorten their own vested terms. City Attorney Pyburn stated they could not. She provided a brief overview of the logistics of changes to terms to accommodate a move to four (4) Districts and an elected Mayor. Discussion continued.

Consensus was to recommend no change, with the suggestion that the item be revisited by the Commission should the State legislation not pass.

Deputy City Attorney Mehaffey stated this was the last of the identified issues. She asked if there were any additional issues to address. There being no further discussion, she explained next steps. She stated staff would provide a copy of the full Charter with the changes proposed in a strike-through and underline format later in the week, and a draft of the ballot language would be provided at the next meeting.

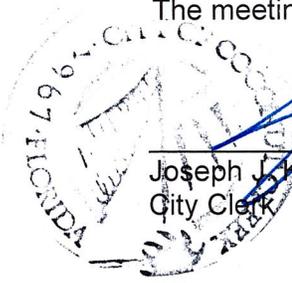
The Board and staff discussed the schedule briefly, and it was determined that the April

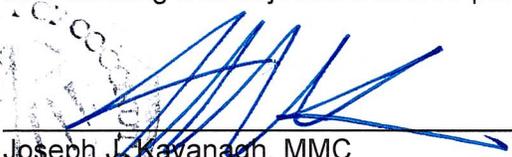
23 meeting would be canceled. City Attorney Pyburn reviewed the schedule of remaining meetings, as follows:

- Wednesday, April 16 at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 30 at 5 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.





Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk



Date