



2nd MEETING OF 2020
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
12 MARCH 2020
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Vaughan Carter Chairman
 Sophia Harris Member
 Dr. Christopher Williams Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat
 Lise Hurlstone Administrator/Analyst (for part)
 Shari Welcome Public Relations and Education Coordinator (for part)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:19am. The Chairman thanked all for attending.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Sophia Harris proposed and Christopher Williams seconded the minutes of 9 January 2020.

3. Matters Arising / Updates

a. CC's Explanatory Note on proposed Constitutional amendments

Members completed this Explanatory Note and it was submitted to His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Premier, and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on 17 February 2020. His Excellency acknowledged to the Chairman receipt of the Note. It was subsequently uploaded to the Commission's website and the Commission agreed no further action is needed at this time.

b. Curriculum changes in schools

The Chairman made initial contact with the Ministry of Education's representative for curriculum development who expressed an interest in working with the Commission to engrain the Constitution within the curriculum. The Chairman will continue these discussions and report back at the next meeting.

c. Correspondence with Celebrate Cayman

The Chairman wrote to the Chairman of Celebrate Cayman to:

1. request sight of the documents/exhibits gleaned by Celebrate Cayman from the National Archives (both here and in Jamaica) as they relate to the Constitution;
2. inform him that Dr. Williams is now a Member of the Commission and his history (and interest in this area); and
3. discuss the invitation from the Honourable Premier that the Commission work with Celebrate Cayman to create a permanent constitutional exhibit following the renaming of the George Town Hall to Constitution Hall.

No reply had been received from Celebrate Cayman and the Commission resolved to follow-up with the Chairman.

d. Children's book educational project

Members received a copy of the proposed material that would potentially be used to create a book aimed at middle/early high school students. The original project to work with a class at the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre (CIFEC) to glean artwork (both pictures and a video of the process) has not come to fruition. Members will review the material (which was also reviewed by David Bridgeman as a teacher) and the Secretariat is to take stock of what artwork we do have in order to consider the viability of revisiting the project for completion for July 2020.

e. History of the Cayman Islands Constitution

An original timeline created by the Constitutional Review Secretariat was updated by both a previous Commission and the current Chairman. It now includes references to the proposed 2020 constitutional amendments. The Secretariat will send the wording to Commission Members for review.

4. New Business

a. The CC's Agenda for 2020

The Secretariat's new Public Relations and Education Coordinator, Shari Welcome, was introduced and members discussed options for its 2020 agenda. It was agreed a communications strategy would be developed with consideration to:

- 1) a relevant dates calendar;
- 2) joint projects with the Human Rights Commission (HRC);
- 3) an educational book/project;
- 4) various creative projects;
- 5) special visits (promotion of knowledge) to schools (i.e. round table at UCCI to debate the Constitution);
- 6) presentations to teachers; and
- 7) radio appearances during Constitution month (July 2020).

5. Other Topical Matters Arising:

a. Speaker's Leave of Absence

The Commission considered the constitutional provisions related to the Speaker. The Secretariat was asked to research other Overseas Territories (OT's) constitutional

provisions for Speaker of the House (i.e. the appointment and vacating of office; and if possible any policies regarding “leave of absences”).

b. Constitutional Issues Arising in Recent Judgments

The recent judicial decision regarding the Port Referendum recently referenced previous work of the Commission as it relates to people initiated referendums. The Secretariat is currently updating the research on legislation anticipated by the Constitution. This research will be shared with the Commission, along with a draft press release and letter to the Honourable Premier and the Government, regarding this subject area highlighting the need for review. A further area of discussion was held regarding the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal judgement as it relates to implementation of civil union legislation. The HRC’s last statement on civil unions is to be circulated to Members for information purposes.

6. Any Other Business

a. Tracking Issues


The Commission will consider an avenue in which to ‘track’ issues related to constitutional amendments/changes; as well as its work in general.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled during week of 20th April or 27th April at 9:30am. Members will be asked (via email) for their availability to attend.

8. Termination

The meeting was closed at 11:55am.



Vaughan Carter
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION