



**MINUTES
5th MEETING OF 2011
22nd MEETING OF
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 2011
AGAPE CHURCH OFFICE**

PRESENT: Pastor Al Ebanks Chairman
 Julene Banks Member
 Wil Pineau Member

Secretariat members present:

There were no Secretariat members present as the meeting was rescheduled from the usual second and fourth Tuesday of the month and staff was unavailable to provide support to the Constitutional Commission due to prior commitments with the Judicial and Legal Services Commission. Member Julene Banks acted as Secretary.

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Member, Wil Pineau, offered prayer.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Amendments were agreed to the numbering of minutes to follow the numbering order on the website, thus minutes for 2011 would indicate the number of meetings for 2011, and also the total meetings of the Commission. The error in the minutes of the 7th November, 2010 had not yet been amended as the date was shown as 19th October, 2010 and already posted to the website. This amendment was formally confirmed.

Minutes of the minutes of 22nd February, 2011, the 5th Meeting of 2011 and the 22nd meeting of the Commission, were confirmed and to be signed by member, Wil Pineau, who had acted as Chairman on that date.

3. Outstanding Business

I. Letter to HE the Governor regarding Research Paper

Members agreed the response to the letter received from the Governor querying the merits of the research undertaken by the Commission. In order to understand the practical application of the constitutional powers within the executive branch of the Cayman Islands and the relationship between central government and its advisory bodies and the benefit of that relationship to the wider community, the Commission took the view that it would be prudent to undertake a study of the existing governance structure and the manner in which advisory bodies functioned. It was also of the view that this information should be readily available to any member of the public.

II. Confirmation of Dates for Public Meetings

Concern was expressed regarding the delay in getting the dates confirmed and information out to the public. Personal contact would be made with the MLA's and pastors in the districts to assist in getting the information out. GIS would be instructed to prepare a press release for April 1st, 2011 detailing the meetings already confirmed. The dates for West Bay and the Sister Islands needed to be confirmed as well as the date proposed for a public forum on 7th July, 2011. Personal contact had been made with Dr Carlyle Corbin.

III. Formal thank you to UCCI Conference

A formal thank you would be sent to Mr Bodden and organisers of the UCCI Conference, commending them on the caliber of the presentations and requesting copies for the Commission's library. Recommendations for Dr Livingston Smith to offer his presentation "Reforming Caribbean Political Parties for better Governance and Empowerment" to a wider audience through local media.

IV. Opinion on Rights of Civil Servants under the Constitution

Verification was needed on certain points, but the preliminary opinion pointed to the need for more clearly defined guidelines balancing the freedom of expression of civil servants and their obligation to conduct themselves in a political neutral manner.

V. Publications

The draft booklets on the various sections of the Constitution received from the Secretariat had been reviewed and were being edited. The editing of the fourth booklet involved separating the four headings out into separate booklets as each area should stand on its own, thus there would likely be a total of eight booklets in the series. However, funding for the publications was an issue.

VI. Budget

This was an issue of great concern as the budget allocation for each Commission had never been clearly defined. Members would meet with the Secretariat to discuss the current budget cuts and reduction in staff and its implications to the Commission work.

VII. Logo/Letterheading

This item was added to the list of outstanding business. The Commission was pleased with the heading created by GIS for the website and would investigate whether this could be modified to create a digital letterhead and a logo for the publications.

4. New Business

Correspondence had been received and responded to from the UN Decolonization Committee regarding its 2011 Caribbean Regional Seminar to be held for three days in the second half of May. Details of the specific topic for the paper to be presented by the Constitutional Commission had not yet been agreed. Also the exact date and venue had not been fixed.

5. Any Other Business

6. Action List

- i. The Chairman will arrange a meeting with the Manager of the Secretariat, hopefully for next Tuesday, 5th April to discuss budget and other issues, including whether the Secretariat would remain at the Smith Road Centre.
- ii. The Chairman will call the MLA's and confirm attendance at the district meetings.
- iii. Member, Wil Pineau, to contact GIS regarding press release and attendance at district meetings. Also to discuss logo and letterhead and publication of booklets.
- iv. Member, Wil Pineau, to confirm with the Secretariat the logistics for each venue to ensure that the PA system, projector and screen were all accessible and operational.
- v. Member, Julene Banks, to draft minutes and follow through with amendments to the numbering of the previous minutes for 2011 and the correction of the date for the minutes of the 7th November, 2010.
- vi. Member, Julene Banks, to draft Thank You letter to UCCI
- vii. Member, Julene Banks, to complete the opinion on the rights of civil servants to engage in political activities.

7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting

- i. Feedback from first district meeting
- ii. Attendance at UN Caribbean Regional Seminar in May
- iii. Publications

8. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 12th April, 2011. Venue to be decided.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Pastor Al Ebanks

Chairman
Constitutional Commission

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