



AS WE SEE IT

The citizens of New Smyrna Beach need to give each Commissioner a thumbs up for enabling two initiatives critical to our city's future: Comprehensive Plan Review and City Charter Review. City Charters are a city's constitution; a document *by* the people and *for* the people. The current one does not reflect this mandate as it was considerably downsized in the early nineties not by a vote of the citizens but by a vote of City Commissioners only.

This action was enabled by a very unusual and unconstitutional law enacted by the Florida Legislature of that era. The statute had a quick sunset provision but not before our City Commission significantly amended our charter leaving us with a document that sets forth governance structure in some detail but eliminates references to preservation, sense of place and environmental sustainability to name just a few of the issues that together define our city.

Now, seventeen years later, we, as a community, will have an opportunity to vote in November of 2020 for new amendments that hopefully will provide guidance in how to attain and sustain a superb quality of life in our city. Recommendations to the City Commission for amendments will be made by a Charter Review Committee composed of eleven local residents appointed by the City Commission. Eight members were appointed at the [October 8 City Commission meeting](#). The NSB Residents' Coalition will be covering these meetings and posting summaries of them on this website.

YOU CAN participate in this process not only by becoming informed as to the discussion and decisions by the committee but also by contacting members of the committee to share your ideas and concerns. The greater the breadth of citizen involvement in the process the better are our chances of having a document ready for a vote next year that will truly reflect a citizen consensus as to how our community should handle the challenges that confront us today and how we can sustain our sense of place and quality of life in the years to come.

The Comprehensive Plan is much like a road map that provides the detail for the directives in the City Charter. Since both reviews are currently in process, it is imperative that you also read our website postings as amended elements in the Comprehensive Plan are offered by Staff to P&Z and to the City Commission. Unlike the City Charter that constitutionally can only be amended by a vote of the registered voters, the Comprehensive Plan is amended by the City Commission.

Your time has come, citizens of New Smyrna Beach, to chart the course you want our city to take: **Participate!**

[Link to current City Charter](#)

[Link to Comprehensive Plan](#) - To request a digital copy of the Comprehensive Plan, please contact the Planning Department at (386) 410-2835