



## AS WE SEE IT

The Charter Review Workshops conducted by the City Commission on May 28th (jointly held with the Charter Review Committee), June 11th and June 18th were productive of a revised Charter that promises to deliver on the commitment by the City Commission when it embarked on Charter review to make the revised Charter more citizen protective and user friendly.

To the Charter Review's facilitator, Marilyn Crotty, goes the credit for reordering the structure of our City Charter. In doing so, subject matter is much easier to locate since redundant language has been deleted and like issues are combined on one Article.

To the Charter Review Committee (CRC) goes the credit for beginning its work by adopting an outstanding Preamble authored by CRC member Marie Bushey with contributions from other committee members. This early addition to the Charter became the CRC's North Star in guiding the development of each Article. Two Articles, in particular, rest on the Preamble. Article VII gives a significant boost to citizen participation and Article VI references environmental protection and the ability for the city to sustain the city's special character.

To the City Commission and the City Attorney, goes the credit for a thorough analysis of the CRC's revisions and for edits that ensured legal compliance. Knowing that a city is governed based on language in its charter and recognizing that our current Charter is absent any expression of citizen aspirations for our city, the Mayor and Commissioners have worked especially hard to embrace the CRC's recommendations in that respect.

The NSB Residents' Coalition will be joining with other civic groups to educate the people of New Smyrna Beach as to the changes that have been made in each Article as well as to the intent of new additions. Since the final draft of the revised Charter will not be certain until first presented as an Ordinance at a special meeting currently scheduled for July 28, the NSBRC tutorials will not start until August. In the meantime, become familiar with the current Charter and the CRC proposed revised Charter by following the Coalition's online links to both documents.

### Refer to our [What's Happening](#) Page

- Choose the **City Commission** menu to view summaries of the workshops
- Choose the **Charter Review Committee** to view summaries of the CRC meetings.

Find easy links to the current City Charter and the Proposed Changes on our [What You Should Know](#) Page by choosing the **City Charter Review 2020** option.