

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
July 28, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

5:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairperson Singer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**PRESENT** Chairperson David Singer, Vice Chairperson Otis Wheeler, Councilor Shelia Gilmour, Erin Donnally Drake, John Lunt and Allen Woods.

**ABSENT** Councilor Christine Forgey.

**ALSO PRESENT** Intern from the Mayor's Office Christian LaPlante and members of the public.

**CHAIR STATEMENT:** This meeting is being recorded by the Charter Review Committee. If any other persons present were doing the same they must notify the chairperson at this time.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Committee Member Donnally Drake, second by Councilor Wheeler, it was by majority, 5 yes, 1 abstention,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES DATED JUNE 23, 2020.

Chairperson Singer opened discussion on the City Charter Articles V, VI, VII, VIII and IX. Comments included:

- Set a deadline for department heads to submit proposed Charter amendments by the end of August.
- The Charter Review Committee would meet the second week of September to discuss the proposed amendments.
- Schedule a public hearing in October.
- Committee would prepare their report by November or December.
- The duties and functions of the Board of License Commissioners as outlined in the Code and the Charter were not copacetic.
- The Charter would need to reflect the Central Maintenance Department had become part of the DPW Department.
- Suggestion was made to indentify people in positions with gender neutral adjectives.
- Questions were raised if the GCET Board of Commissioners would be required to be included in the Charter.
- Recommended that the Human Rights Commission be included in the Charter.
- The State was in the process of replacing Preliminary Elections with Rank Choice Voting, which could affect the language in Section 7-2 of the Charter.
- The Recreation Director was not mentioned in the Charter.
- Sections 7-7 & 7-8: Citizens' Initiatives and Referendums; were the most contentious portions of the Charter and would require a more in-depth review and simplified language.
- Suggestion was made to have Section 7-12: Recall Elections provide more clarification for the amount of signatures required to have an elected official recalled.
- There needs to be a balance between the ease in which the public could be more involved with the governmental system and to avoid frivolous and retaliatory action.

Committee Member Erin Donnally Drake was experiencing technical difficulties and left the meeting at 6:28 pm. She was able to return to the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Chairperson Singer suggested that the Committee not schedule a meeting for August and return the second week of September.

Proposed amendments from the Committee members should be forwarded to the City Clerk to be forwarded to the full Committee.

The Committee thanked Christian LaPlante for his help with research and his time as an intern in the Mayor's office.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 5:30 pm, at the City Hall meeting room or via Webex, if required.

The Department Heads should submit their proposed amendments to the Committee by September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Committee Member Lunt, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:53 P.M.