

Charter Review Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Charles Woodard

Brigidanne Flynn

Isaac Diggs

Mary Ann Prokosch

Barbara J. Smith

Susan Smith

Tom Murphy

Members Absent:

Decora Sandiford

Jack Penney

Pauline Dillard

Consultants:

Jonathan Drapkin, Director, Pattern for Progress

Prof. Gerald Benjamin, SUNY New Paltz

Staff:

Corporation Counsel Michelle Kelson

Administrative Assistant Ann Kuzmik

Chairman Charles Woodard called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1- Minutes of the 6/23/11 meeting were approved unanimously.**

2- Approval of Technical Amendment Additions:

The Commission considered Mr. Steinman's additions to the technical amendments based on comments from the last meeting. (see underlined & bracketed text). The additions were approved unanimously following a motion by Brigidanne Flynn and a second by Barbara Smith.

They are as follows:

C3.22. Vacancies in office

Any vacancy in an elective office occurring from any cause other than expiration of term shall be temporarily filled by appointment of the Council. When a vacancy occurs in the position of a Council member elected from a ward, the person selected to fill that vacancy shall be a both a qualified elector of the City and a resident of that ward. Such temporary appointment shall continue in effect until the first day of January next following the next general election held after such appointment. At the next general election following any such vacancy in an elective office, a successor shall be elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term for which the vacating officer was elected, unless such term shall expire on or before the first day of January next following such general election in which case such successor shall be elected for a full term.

Notwithstanding the provisions hereof, the City Manger shall have the power and authority to designate a person to fill any such vacancy, except that of member of the Council, until the same shall be filled by temporary appointment of the Council."

C 3.11 Residential qualifications of elective officers.

All elective officers of the City shall be qualified electors of the City[.]. Council members elected from wards shall be residents of those wards. [t] The removal of any

such officer from the City, or from a ward in the case of a Council member elected from a ward, during his term of office shall render the office held by him vacant."

3- Finalize Presentation and Public Hearing Dates

The Commission will present to City Council at the upcoming Aug. 4 work session. The possibility of taping the work session will be looked into.

The public hearing was set for Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. Several Commission members felt that a location outside the Council Chambers might be better. Ann/Michelle Kelson will look into alternate locations within the realm of budget constraints.

4- Plan Council and Public Hearing Presentations

Following discussion, Isaac Diggs made a motion, seconded by Susan Smith, to establish two subcommittees, Presentation and Media. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The focus of the Presentation Subcommittee is to prepare for the upcoming Council meeting and public hearing. The priority of the media subcommittee is to get the message out, once the presentation is developed. This process will begin after the Council work session and continue up to the election. The meeting locations and dates will be determined.

Commission members volunteered to serve on one or both of the subcommittees as follows:

“Presentation”

Charles Woodard

Brigidanne Flynn

Tom Murphy

Isaac Diggs

This subcommittee will meet on July 21 at Isaac Diggs' home, at 6:30 p.m.

“Media”

Members are:

Charles Woodard

Brigidanne Flynn

Isaac Diggs

Mary Ann Prokosch

Barbara Smith

Susan Smith

5- Review Report of the Charter Review Commission

The Commission then reviewed the draft report required as a part of the Charter Revision process, which was compiled by Lester Steinman, Esq. Discussion followed which included whether or not the report should note dissenting votes on various resolutions, and whether the report should include a provision for further review. Consensus of members in attendance appeared to be that the names should be included; and that a separate recommendation could be made as to recommending future review of the Charter. Brigidanne Flynn suggested some minor edits to text; Tom Murphy made a motion to accept the report with changes as noted by Brigidanne Flynn; Brigidanne Flynn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6- Additional Action Item:

Mary Ann Prokosch made a motion that the Commission should recommend Charter Revision every 10 years- Susan Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a motion by Tom Murphy, seconded by Susan Smith, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT STEPS:

The Commission will meet as a whole on Thursday, July 28 at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers to go over the presentation to City Council.