

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 13, 2007 – 8:00 a.m.
3rd Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building

Approved Minutes

Commission Members Present:

Nancy Soreng, Chair
Alice Gresham Bullock, Vice-Chair
Michael Cogan
Karen Czapanskiy
Dianne Felton
Wilbur Friedman
Mollie Habermeier
Robert Shoenberg
Judith Vandegriff
Anne Marie Vassallo
Charles Wolff

Staff:

Justina Ferber, County Council
Marc Hansen, Office of the County Attorney
Marie Jean-Paul, County Council
Amanda Mihill, County Council

Guests:

Dale Tibbitts, Office of Councilmember Elrich

Commission Chair Nancy Soreng called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks

Ms. Soreng opened the meeting by welcoming the Commission Members and staff and asked everyone to give a brief introduction.

II. Mission of the Charter Review Commission

Amanda Mihill described staff's role to the Commission, which is to facilitate decision-making, provide background information on issues that come up, and conduct research. Justina Ferber briefed the new Commission members on the history of previous Charter Review Commissions. Ms. Ferber noted that the Commission does not receive instructions from the Council; however, past Commissions have met with elected officials to obtain their ideas and recommendations. Ms. Ferber noted that previous Commission have solicited public comments on potential charter review issues by holding public forums and issuing a press release requesting input on potential Charter changes.

Commission members discussed ways to generate ideas for the Commission to study. The Commission decided to solicit input from current and former Councilmembers and County Executives. To this end, the Commission acted on the following items:

- Invite current Councilmembers and the current County Executive to present any charter issues to the Commission. Motion made by Judith Vandegriff and seconded by Alice Bullock. Motion passed unanimously.
- Invite Doug Duncan, the immediate past County Executive, to speak to the Commission first. Motion made by Wilbur Friedman and seconded by Charles Wolff. Motion failed 2-9.
 - Yes: Wilbur Friedman, Charles Wolff
 - No: Alice Gresham Bullock, Michael Cogan, Karen Czapanskiy, Dianne Felton, Mollie Habermeier, Robert Shoenberg, Nancy Soreng, Judith Vandegriff, Anne Marie Vassallo
- Invite former members of the immediate past Council to speak to the Commission. Motion made by Anne Marie Vassallo, duly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Michael Cogan suggested that letters should be sent to all past Councilmembers and County Executives to solicit their input for charter issues.

Dale Tibbitts asked about what public outreach the Commission would undertake. Commission members agreed to issue a press release seeking public comment and to mail copies of the press release to County civic organizations. Motion made by Ms. Vandegriff and seconded by Dianne Felton. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Administrative Items

Commission members agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of every month between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Commission members agreed not to meet during August. Commission members asked Council staff to distribute a list of future meeting dates.

Commission members discussed the agenda for the July meeting and agreed to ask Marc Hansen to provide a presentation on what is charter material and to receive presentations from available current and former elected officials.

Council staff discussed the County's parking arrangements and badges, attendance policies at Commission meetings, and reimbursement for travel and child care expenses for members of County boards, committees, and commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.