

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)
March 13, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.
County Office Building – Capital Crescent Conference Room
100 Maryland Avenue,
Rockville, MD 20850

Minutes

Commission Members Present: Jim Michaels, Chair Dylan Presman (Virtual) Howard Denis Jeffrey Naftal (Virtual) Marvin Lynch Sherry Brett-Major David Nachtsheim (Virtual) Michael Persh Marcela Samuels (Virtual) CeCe Grant (Virtual)	Staff Present: Khandikile Sokoni, Office of the County Council Stephen Mathany, Office of the County Council Lisa Brennan, Office of the County Attorney (Virtual)
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Commission Chair Jim Michaels called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:03 a.m.

I. Administrative Items

- a. Commissioner Presman moved approval of the agenda, second by Commissioner Nachtsheim, adopted unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Nachtsheim moved approval of the February 2024 minutes, second by Commissioner Presman, adopted unanimously.

II. Comments on Public Listening Sessions

- a. While turnout was smaller than hoped for, it was important and necessary to hear from residents.

III. Majority Positions and Recommendations

a. Voter direct election of the Council President; term of the President.

- i. Commissioners Persh, Naftal, and Grant believe that two-year terms (appointed by peers) would be appropriate to allow the Council President sufficient time to preside over the Council.
- ii. Commissioner Nachtsheim believes that this should be left up for the Council to determine and does not need to be a Charter amendment.
- iii. Voted on Questions
 1. Should the Council President be directly elected by the voters?
 - a. 0 in favor
 - b. 10 opposed (Chair Michaels and Commissioners Nachtsheim, Grant, Presman, Naftal, Samuels, Persh, Brett-Major, Lynch and Denis)
 2. Should the Council Presidency be 2-year term?
 - a. 7 in favor (Chair Michaels and Commissioners Presman, Naftal, Grant, Samuels, Lynch, and Persh)
 - b. 3 opposed (Commissioners Nachtsheim, Denis, and Brett-Major)

3. Should the 2-year term be a Charter amendment?
 - a. 4 in favor (Commissioners Naftal, Grant, Samuels, Persh)
 - b. 6 opposed (Chair Michaels and Commissioners Presman, Lynch, Nachtsheim, Denis, Brett-Major)
- b. Requirements for approval by super majority on budget and revenue matters under Charter Sect. 305
 - i. Should the Charter be changed to require a 2/3 vote for all 3 actions listed in Section 305?
 1. 8 in favor (Chair Michaels and Commissioners Presman, Naftal, Grant, Samuels, Lynch, Nachtsheim, and Persh).
 2. 2 opposed (Commissioners Denis and Brett-Major).
 - c. Executive Appointments to “non-merit” positions, Charter Section 215.
 - i. Should the County Executive have authority to make non-merit appointments, below the Agency Head level, without confirmation by the County Council?
 1. 5 in favor (Commissioners Presman, Lynch, Samuels, Persh, and Denis).
 2. 5 opposed (Chair Michaels and Commissioners Naftal, Grant Nachtsheim, and Brett-Major).
 - ii. Should there be a deadline for the County Council to take action to reject County Executive Appointments for all non-merit appointments?
 1. 9 in favor (Commissioners Presman, Naftal, Grant, Lynch, Samuels, Nachtsheim, Persh, Denis, and Brett-Major).
 2. 1 opposed (Chair Michaels).
 - iii. Should the deadline limit be 60 or 45 days?
 1. In favor of 60 Days – 6 (Commissioners Presman, Naftal, Lynch, Nachtsheim, Persh, and Brett-Major).
 2. In favor of 45 Days – 3 (Commissioners Samuels, Denis, and Grant).
 3. Chair Michaels abstained.
- IV.** Plans and assignments for drafting majority positions in the first report.
 - a. Schedule for drafting adopted by unanimous consent.
 - b. Assignments for Drafting
 - i. Section 108 Council Presidency – Commissioner Brett- Major
 - ii. Section 305 Budget – Commissioner Presman
 - iii. Section 215 non-merit appointments – Commissioner Persh
 - c. Minority individual or group opinions can be drafted for inclusion in the final report.

Commissioner Persh moved to adjourn, second by Commissioner Naftal

V. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:33 AM.