

City of Excelsior

Charter Commission Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

1. Roll Call

Charter Commissioners Present: Chair Lloyd Bratland, Bob Bolles, Leigh Harrod, Judy Mueller, Jeannie Thompson, Colleen Nuese_Marine, Lucille Crow

Charter Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Caron, Mary Jo Fulkerson, Janice Leafer

Also Present: Mark Bowers, John Frederick

2. Call to Order

Chair Bratland called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

3. Appoint Acting Secretary

Colleen Nuese-Marine was unanimously approved

4. Approval of the Minutes – September 1, 2010

The following changes were submitted: Commissioner Cornelius has resigned and will send a letter to Judge Swenson. Strike the last sentence from paragraph two in 5.a from last month's meeting. Delete " Also perhaps 15 members is excessive and the membership should remain at current 12."

Clarify 5.b. "Statutory Role/Where to Next" to state that citizens with issues should use the normal channels of going to the City Council as a first resort.

Chair Bratland had contacted the League of Cities for a clarification on the role of the Charter Commission regarding "Reactive vs. Proactive", and reported his findings.

Commissioner Leigh Harrod motioned and Commissioner Susan Brokaw seconded to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting as amended. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. New Business

a. Does the Charter Commission Want to Be Reactive to Petition

Mark Bowers presented a petition (see attached) whose goal "was to give taxpayers a bigger voice in expenditures – i.e. their taxes".

i. Officially registered petition

5. New Business
 - a. Does the Charter Commission Want to Be Reactive to Petition – (Continued)
 - ii. Went door-to-door for signatures
 - iii. Taxpayer feedback was 95% supportive

Commissioners discussed the petition.

Motion made by Commissioner Judy Mueller and seconded by Commissioner Susan Brokaw that all Commissioners accept the challenge and do due diligence on the petition presented to the Commission on October 13, 2010. Motion passed, 7 to 1, with Commissioner Bolles voting against the motion.

Bolles highly recommended that each Charter Commissioner individually becomes better informed about all reports from City Council and advisory commissions.

6. Next Meeting

Commissioner Harrod with assistance from others will benchmark other cities to discover how they are dealing with financial oversight in their city charters.

Chair Bratland will invite Joan Carlson, the City's Finance Director, to comment on the pros and cons of financial oversight. Chair Bratland will also check on the legality of this idea with the attorney from the League of Cities and find out how different budgets are constructed

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Charter Commission will be Wednesday, October 27, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Brokaw motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Harrod seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Nuese-Marine
Acting Secretary