

City of Excelsior  
Charter Commission

Minutes  
Thursday, March 31, 2011

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lloyd Bratland call the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Charter Commission members present: Chairman Bratland, Commissioners Brokaw, Hartwich, Crowe, Leafer, Harrod, Finch, Bolles, Fulkerson and Viesturs.

Charter members absent: Norman, Mueller, Caron, Thompson, ~~Leafer~~, and Wilson.

Also present: Mark Bowers; John Frederick

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No additions or changes requested so Agenda approved as written ..

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the March 17 2011 meeting

Leafer moved and Viesturs seconded motion to accept minutes as written, including the reissued set of minutes from Feb. 09 2011 with its attachments, and the March 1 set of minutes with its attachments.

Motion passes 10/0. Fulkerson abstained.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None. offered

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**Overview of Last Meeting; Updates**

Chairman Bratland reviewed the action taken in the March 17 meeting and distributed a handout entitled, "Update: Meeting with the City Council." The handout describes the Assignment, the Status, and the Time frame.(attached). Bratland informed the Charter Commission that he will be presenting to the City Council, in general terms, the proposition of changing the charter to include a 5-year rolling financial plan by inserting it into the Charter ordinance, at the request of the Charter Commission. He is schedule to present the proposal, in general terms, on the City Council's meeting agenda for April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Benchmarking Update**

Commissioners Finch and Viesturs distributed a handout entitled "Excelsior Charter Commission Benchmarking Exercise Plan" (attached). Finch reported on initial discussions and phone conversations he has had to date, in concert with Bolles and Viesturs, with the city manager and finance director of Moundsvew, and also

with the former chairman of the Moundsvew Charter Commission. Finch and Viesturs indicated they would try to complete all the calls and meetings described in their Benchmarking Exercise Plan within 2 weeks, and would include volunteers from the rest of the commission to be the third party in these exercises.

Finch and Viesturs described in general terms some of the feedback they received from Moundsvew, but cautioned that their comments may be premature at this point, and that they wanted to first complete all the exercises in the plan before making final reporting to the rest of the commissioners.

**Handout: “Question: Do we feel Resident Fiscal Oversight is Necessary for Excelsior**

Chairman Bratland distributed the above-captioned handout for discussion purposes. He also referenced the petition of October 13 2010, and Mark Bowers’ petition remarks made on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2011. Bratland reminded the group that we are still in a fact-finding mode and going through a process with both the benchmarking exercise and with dialogue with the city council.

After round-table discussion, Finch remarked that he had a sense that in Moundsvew that it was more a case of shared decision making by citizens more than just fiscal oversight.

Commissioner Leafer expressed concern about Mark Bowers’ deadline to file his petition by April 15 2011, which may precede the Charter Commission final completion of its fact-finding work. **Mark Bowers** addressed the commission and reminded them that his April 15 deadline was still in play.

Chairman Bratland, in response to a question from Sue Brokaw, that the Charter Commission can indeed proceed on its own with a charter change to include 5-year rolling financial report, in parallel with whatever Mark Bowers does. But Bratland added that he would prefer to head off having multiple petitions presented to the voters.

Bratland also asked for help with cleaning up the language in the motion of March 17<sup>th</sup> about financial reporting, to better define the terms stated therein. Peter Hartwich volunteered to work with Bratland on that task.

**John Frederick**, Excelsior citizen in the audience, addressed the commission members. Frederick said that the Charter Commission’s efforts thus far on financial reporting may actually be “closer that you think” to finding common accord with the City Council’s efforts in this same area.

**Next Meeting:** Bratland suggested the next meeting be scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion made by Viesturs, seconded by Brokaw, to adjourn the meeting until April 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed, 11-0.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leigh Harrod,  
Acting as Recording Secretary for Jeannie Thompson