

Brooklyn Park Charter Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

7:30 p.m. Brooklyn Township Conference Room

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Dwight Cox called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were: Arlene Breckenridge; Dwight Cox; Dennis Gunther; Mamdouh (Mike) Habiba (arrived at 7:40 p.m.) Marjorie Lindberg; and Olajide Williams

Absent: Anthony Mills and Christopher Bohler

Also in attendance: Council Liaison Steve Lampi (arrived at 7:40 p.m.) and Staff Liaison Devin Montero; and Virginia Resech (interested in serving on a commission)

2. Additions/Approval of Agenda of September 9, 2009

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Marjorie Lindberg to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the May 13, 20, and 28, 2009 Minutes.

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Olajide Williams to approve the May 13, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Marjorie Lindberg to approve the May 20, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Marjorie Lindberg to approve the May 28, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1.1 Introduction of new Charter Commission Member. Chair Cox introduced Mamdough (Mike) Habiba as a new member to the Charter Commission. Chair Cox gave a summary of the Charter Commission's responsibilities. He covered the appointment process, term limits, reviewing chapters of the charter; state law changes and addressing local issues; receiving the city managers population report; and redistricting.

1.2 Commission Orientation Video. Chair Cox stated the commission orientation video would be viewed at the next Charter meeting due to not having an updated version available.

4. Old Business

5. Reports of Offices, Boards, and Standing Committees.

5.1 Ordinance Amending Charter Chapters 3 and 14. Chair Cox stated the amendments to Chapter 3 and Chapter 14 were presented to the City Council for adoption at the July 20, 2009 Council meeting. He briefly covered why the amendment to Chapter 14 gave authority to collect

administrative and legal costs associated with enforcing the administrative penalty provisions relating to rental properties. He stated the changes would be effective in October.

6. New Business

7. Correspondence/Communications

7.1 City Manager's Memo, RE: Council Joint Meeting Follow-up.

Chair Cox stated he attended the Joint Commission meeting with the Council and they commended the Charter Commission's efforts. He stated the Council provided some items to the Charter Commission to consider:

- Bigger thinking, less word-smithing of the Charter
- Impact of reducing Council from 7 to 5 members
- Review issues of council members being city employees

He stated the Council indicated the Commission should spend less time reviewing the Charter and were provided with other items for discussion.

Council Liaison Lampi stated that Council was looking at ways to streamline government and reducing expenses and was a reasonable request to look at the Council structure if it was possible to do city business with fewer council members.

Discussions were held on: Adding the discussion items to the Charter agenda; council member sizes in other cities in the area; Brooklyn Park growing; council member size for the city of Bloomington and Fridley.

Chair Cox stated there also would be some redistricting that could fit into the discussion as the result of the 2010 census. Council Liaison Lampi stated that would be the chance to do it if the Charter considered it.

Chair Cox stated the other issue to look at was council members being a city employee. Staff Liaison Montero stated there was an opinion by the Attorney General in 2005 that caused an amendment to the Charter. Chair Cox stated it should be communicated back to the Council in some form that the Charter Commission had discussion on the items and would be good for the new members on what was covered before and how it came out.

Commissioner Breckenridge stated the general comments of the report were interesting and the turnovers in the Budget Commission was a concern along with the turnover of city employees and could be discussed at some time to prevent it from happening;

Council Liaison Lampi stated that one thing to help the turnover in the Budget Advisory Commission was the adoption of a 2 year budget cycle for a one year budget cycle and helped with the continuity and also adopted a rolling five year budget so Council was looking down the road to see what impacts things might have.

7.2 Metropolitan Council 2008 Population Estimates

Staff liaison Montero stated the MET Council provided their population figures for 2008 and staff did not appeal the figures.

Discussions were held on: District boundaries being frozen January 1, 2010 due to the Census; when would the census information become available; how the data was collected; and the importance of collecting the data to help with budgets.

Staff Liaison Montero stated he would provide a Census Timetable to Charter Commission at the next meeting.

7.3 Amendments to Chapters 1 and 2 (Effective July 30, 2009)

Staff Liaison Montero stated amendments to Chapters 1 and 2 became effective July 30, 2009 and were distributed to the Charter Commission previously.

Commissioner Breckenridge asked about changes made to the city code relating to the changes to Section 14.19 of the City Charter. Council Liaison Montero stated changes were made to the city code relating to Section 14.19.

8. Adjournment

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Marjorie Lindberg to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Montero, Staff Liaison