



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Charter Review Commission

September 20, 2023

6:00 PM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

Minutes

1) Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Jonathan calls meeting to order at 6:03PM

2) Roll Call

- a. Guy Thellian, Harriet Applegate, Stephanie Morris, Jonathan Ciesla, Graham Ball, Roland Anglin, Drew Herzig, and Graig Kluge are present
- b. Linda Striefsky is absent.

3) Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting –

a. Motion for approval?

- i. Graig motioned and Harriet seconded.

b. Discussion, changes?

- i. None.

c. Take vote

- i. Unanimous approval.

4) Advice on issuance of City email addresses to CRC members

- a. Vice Chair Jonathan followed up with city on 9/20/2023, reiterating the request for city emails.

5) Update on Consideration of Presenter(s) for Overview of City Charters and Charter Review Process – Roland Anglin

- a. Two candidates have been interviewed by Linda and Roland for the Facilitator position, both of whom are lawyers. Once Linda returns, Roland and Linda will do one more round of interviews and return to the CRC with a recommendation.
 - i. The candidates have extensive experience doing city commission facilitation and legal research.
- b. Mentioned by a CRC member that Newman and Keller of the previous



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CRC were both good and shouldn't be removed from the conversation.

Other CRC members acknowledged this, but desired new voices to provide advice to the CRC.

- c. Some debate over efficacy of hiring a Facilitator:
 - i. Maybe the CRC doesn't need one because we haven't run into problems yet. Is this a good use of public funds?
 - ii. If the CRC is going to do this, let's do it right. There is a lot of expertise around the table, but it's not complete expertise on how charters work.
 - iii. CRC needs to think about what will the next month or two look like for the CRC?
 - iv. Other cities' CRCs have recommended very broad changes, rather than going line-by-line with specific changes.
- d. Motion by Jonathan: One or more officers will attend the next council meeting, bring up the topic of Facilitator and emails to get the process started.
 - i. Seconded by Roland
 - ii. Might be better to go to Addie and ask her how to approach council to move this forward.
 - iii. Motion amended to: Officers will email Addie and ask Addie how best to approach council to move forward the process of Facilitator.
 - 1. Six ayes, one nay, one abstention.

6) Commence review of entire current Charter

- a. Discussion on how best to proceed with review of Charter.
 - i. Desire to create a subcommittee to review the entire Charter line-by-line, without slowing the work of CRC.
 - ii. Important to consider the political scene of Cleveland Heights and where the Overton Window for changes may be open.
- b. Beginning with the Preamble:
 - i. Reviewing current Charter with the 2019 CRC recommendation.



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- ii. Generally agreed that the 2019 CRC recommendation preamble is preferable to the current Charter's preamble.
 1. Add the principle of "justice" to the final sentence declaring the principles of "liberty and equality."
- iii. What does "Home Rule" mean?
 1. The right of a city to make their own laws, regardless of what the state or county legislature may rule.
 2. This is a good example of why CRC could use a Facilitator.
- c. Motion by Drew: "Suspend the review of the current charter in general session and create a sub-committee for the line-by-line review."
 - i. Discussion:
 1. If the CRC isn't reviewing the charter, what are they doing? How will this body continue operating?
 - The sub-committee will review the minutia of the Charter and make presentations to the CRC.
 - CRC as a whole will review the findings of the sub-committee and interview relevant community actors.
 2. What does this mean for Sunshine Laws? Does the sub-committee need an agenda and minutes? Do they need to meet in City Hall? Could they meet by Zoom?
 - Addie should be consulted on this.
 - No votes will be taken in sub-committee.
 - What if the sub-committee is not a quorum? Do Sunshine Laws still apply?
 3. Suggested that instead of having separate meetings, the sub-committee could review the text on their own and then present to CRC.
 4. Decided to separate the motion into two separate motions.



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- ii. Motion by Drew: Suspend the review of the current charter in general session.
 1. 6 ayes, 1 nay.
- iii. Motion by Drew: Move that Vice Chair solicit member to work on the text of the charter and that the Vice Chair will work with Addie to determine what the legal process will be. Seconded by Harriet.
 1. 5 ayes, 2 nays.
 2. Vice Chair proceeds to solicit volunteers to serve on the subcommittee:
 - Drew and Jonathan volunteer.
 - Other CRC members looking for more information about what the sub-committee will entail before committing.

7) Review of Meeting Action Items

- a. Vice Chair Jonathan will talk to Addie about how best to approach council to begin to process of hiring a Facilitator.
- b. Vice Chair Jonathan will talk to Addie about city emails for CRC members.
- c. Vice Chair Jonathan will talk to Addie about the legal implications of forming a sub-committee.
- d. Vice Chair Jonathan will talk to Addie about legal implications of adding an agenda item at the beginning of the CRC meeting.
- e. Vice Chair Jonathan will add discussion of interviews to agenda for next meeting - create a list of names to move forward with.
 - i. Add to the agenda that invitations will be extended next week as well.
- f. Clerk Graham will send out current list of speakers that CRC has previously compiled.

8) Public Comments (10 minutes)

- a. No public comment.

9) Review of Meeting for Lessons Learned



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- a. Whoever is creating the agenda should send out the agenda with reasonable time for CRC members to review the agenda and make changes before being sent to Addie. Suggested by the group that the agenda should be sent the Wednesday-Friday before the next meeting.
- b. Should have a New Business item on the agenda.
- c. Lots of questions that need answers, potentially from a Facilitator.
- d. Gratitude expressed by CRC members for the respect and time given by all.

10) Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4th at 6 PM

11) Adjourn

- a. Adjourned at 7:47PM.