



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Charter Review Commission

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of March 20 meeting (pending availability)**
- 4. Review and Confirm or Amend Agenda - - Time for Items 1 – 4: 5 minutes**
- 5. Public Comments (Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes. Public comment at this point in the meeting is limited to a total of ten minutes; additional public comment time will be added to the end of the agenda if needed.) – 10 minutes**
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Revised draft project plan for CRC – Ongoing evaluation of need for extra, special meetings, which are tentatively planned for April 13 and April 20, in addition to scheduled special meeting on March 27 and standing meetings on April 3 and April 17 - 5 minutes**
 - b. Update on use of CRC email by the public**
 - c. Report from Assistant Law Director Crumrine or Kevin Butler on selected questions posed by CRC (tentative) – 15 minutes**
 - d. Ongoing consideration of contents of proposed charter amendment “buckets” (see Exhibit A) and on whether CRC recommendations will be presented as one amended charter and/ or as buckets (tentative) – 10 minutes**
 - e. Continue discussion of draft text from Chair regarding balance of powers provisions of Charter and additional Charter provisions relating to change in form of government – 45 minutes**
- 7. New Business**



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- a. Discussion of proposed text from Drew Herzog on non-discrimination provision as Charter amendment – 20 minutes
- b. Discussion of proposed text from Drew Herzog on hybrid method of electing City Council members – 20 minutes
- c. Discussion of proposed text from Guy Thellian on Finance and Budget matters – 20 minutes

8. **Review of Meeting Action Items – 5 minutes**

9. **Public Comments (10 minutes) – 10 minutes**

10. **Review of Meeting for Lessons Learned – 3 minutes**

11. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3 at 6 PM.**

12. **Adjourn**



EXHIBIT A

Possible Bucket Groupings for Charter Revision

Bucket #1 - *largely adopting text developed by 2019 CRC*

- Update and simplify presentation and language throughout
- Replacing 'electors' with 'voters', for example, replacing Roman numerals with Arabic numbers, gender-neutral language throughout

Bucket #2

- Adjust numbers, percentages, and the like on numbers of signatures needed for initiatives, recalls, etc., for days to file petitions, to fill vacancies, etc. – *We did not discuss/agree on any adjustments to percentage of signatures needed. The only context in which changes in number of sigs was raised by CC members was number needed on petitions of candidates.*

The context for change in days was suggestions by some CCs to give CC 60 days to fill vacancy and discussion of whether official publicity should be issued 30 days (or some other advance date) before early voting, rather than 30 days before election day.

- Adjust election requirements for appointed city councilors – *This refers to when an appointed CC has to stand for election.*

Bucket #3

- 'Ethics for elected officials' and 'parliamentary procedure' trainings for all newly-elected city officials – *I would add orientation and training of roles and responsibilities of mayor, CC and directors.*
- Comprehensive non-discrimination policy statement – *Should this be separate bucket?*

Bucket #4

- Balance of powers between executive and legislative branches
- Council authority to request information and/or attendance at Council meetings from department heads, through mayor's office or directly
- Individual councilor's authority to contact department heads directly
- Mayor's authority to appoint department heads, with or without Council approval
- Who appoints to fill vacancy on dead-locked Council? Council president or mayor?
- Law Director available to advise City Council? On what terms?
- *Add statement of expectation of cooperation and collaboration between the 2 branches*



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Bucket #5 - City Council structure: at-large only, ward only, hybrid at-large and ward? - *If a change is proposed using wards to any extent, we need to address how the ward boundaries would be set. I believe UH proposal (not adopted by majority of its CRC) was to use model charter language, which provides for non-partisan commission to set boundaries and to adjust as needed after each census. Setting boundaries is complicated and likely would involve the need to hire staff to assist.*

Bucket #6 - Ranked Choice Voting – *Again, this would require drafting to effect this. Model Charter refers to Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center for mechanics. I have not researched that. When we elect CC in effect we have a version of RCV because the ballot has multiple candidates for multiple seats, with the highest vote getters winning a seat.*

Bucket #7 - Additional provisions relating to change in form of government – Should provision on CC salary and on Mayor salary be made consistent as to Civil Service Commission input? Fix references to definition of Mayor's term and when election follows Mayoral vacancy; revise Art VII, Section 1 regarding timing for elections after Mayoral or Council vacancy