



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Charter Review Commission

May 14, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

1) Call to Order

- a. Chair Linda Striefsky called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

2) Roll Call

- a. Members present: Linda Striefsky, Roland Anglin, Graig Kluge, Jonathan Ciesla, Harriet Applegate, Drew Herzig, Graham Ball, and Guy Thellian.
 - i. Harriet Applegate arrived at 6:56 PM.
 - ii. Graham Ball arrived at 7:00 PM.
- b. Members absent: Stephanie Morris.
- c. Staff present: Assistant Law Director Lee Crumrine.

3) Approval of Minutes of May 8 and May 11 meetings (pending availability).

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of May 8 and May 11 by Graig Kluge, seconded by Guy Thellian. Motion passed 6-0.

4) Review and Confirm or Amend Agenda

- a. None.

5) Public Comments

- a. None.

6) Old Business

- a. Update on communication with Civil Service Commission regarding proposed changes to salary provisions for City Council and Mayor (Roland Anglin draft)
 - i. Chair reported that Civil Service Commission Chair Judith Miller is calling for a meeting of her commission at 5:30 PM on May 15 before meeting with the CRC at 6:00 PM when the CRC's meeting is called to order.
 - ii. Chair reported that she received from the Facilitator information about Lakewood's experience with the provision on which the proposed amendment is based.
- b. Discuss any CRC member questions/comments on revisions to charter draft

- i. Motion by Chair to amend Section 4.2 to add “by ordinance” and “any ordinance” to the last sentence. Drew Herzig asked why a similar provision does not apply to Council members and Chair responded that they are part-time while the mayor is full-time. Motion passed 5-1.
- ii. Regarding removal Section 7.7, Chair asked whether a violation of the Charter as grounds for removal should be deleted. Roland Anglin, Jonathan Ciesla, and Drew Herzig expressed concern with abuse. Motion by Jonathan Ciesla to strike “violation of this Charter” from Section 7.7, seconded by Roland Anglin. Motion passed 6-0. Guy Thellian expressed surprise that the Council could remove the Mayor.
- iii. Regarding Section 8.1, Guy Thellian asked whether the Mayor had the power to veto an initiative. Discussion on this was deferred pending advice from Assistant Law Director Crumrine.
- iv. The CRC discussed whether the budget provisions of Section 9.4 of the Charter need to retain the language: “Appropriations in the ordinance may not exceed the estimated revenues of the City for the year.” The CRC took no action on the matter.
- v. In Section 10.2, Assistant Law Director Lee Crumrine recommended removing the reference to the Human Resources Department because it is not a department provided for under the Charter and because public records law and the City’s retention schedule already address the keeping of those records. Motion by Jonathan Ciesla to delete “and shall be kept by the Human Resources Department,” seconded by Drew Herzig. Motion passed 6-0.
- vi. Chair suggested swapping ranked choice voting under Section 7.8 and removal under Section 7.7. The CRC agreed to that change.
- vii. The CRC discussed the official publicity requirements for charter amendments of Section 13.1. The CRC agreed to a revision to “submit a statement in support of or in opposition to” and to make that same change throughout the Charter where “in support or opposition” is used. In subsection (b), they agreed to change the reference from initiative, referendum, and recall to “charter amendment.” In Section 13.1(b)(1) to change “registered voter” to “elector.”
- viii. Regarding Section 8.6(a), Chair asked whether civic bodies should be able to file statements in support of or opposition to initiatives, referenda, and recall like in Article 12 for charter amendments. The CRC discussed revisions to effectuate that amendment and reorganize the section. Motion by Chair to approve Section 8.6 as amended, seconded by Drew Herzig. Motion passed 7-0 with one abstention.
- ix. Chair presented a redline document pertaining to salaries to make salary adjustments effective for the next term in order to comply with state law. Motion by Chair to adopt Section 3.4 as amended including “No change in salary and other compensation for a Council member or the Mayor shall take effect during the current term of that person,” seconded by Roland Anglin. Motion passed 8-0.

c. Status of drafting of segments for report and of proposed Charter

- i. The CRC discussed the draft of the sections of the report for the draft final report. Chair and Drew Herzig provided suggested revisions.
- ii. Chair provided her comments and suggestions on the RCV section.

- iii. Graham Ball explained his draft of the segment on the land acknowledgment. The CRC discussed the text of that segment and made revisions.

7) Review of Meeting Action Items

- a. Chair requested that members come to May 15 meeting prepared to approve the draft Charter and Report.

8) Public Comment

- a. None.

9) Review of Meeting for Lessons Learned

- a. None.

10) Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Jonathan Ciesla, seconded by Chair. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.