

# Minneapolis Charter Commission Minutes

May 1, 2013 - 4:00 p.m.

Room 317 City Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commissioners Present: Clegg (Chair), Cohen, Dolan, Ferrara, Gerdes, Johnson, Kozak, Lickness, Metge, Peltola, Rice, Sandberg, Schwarzkopf

Commissioners Excused: Connell, Rubenstein

Also Present: Burt Osborne, Assistant City Attorney

## 1. Roll Call

Chair Clegg called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

## 2. Adopt Agenda

*Sandberg moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded.*

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Connell, Johnson, Kozak, Lickness, Rice, Rubenstein.

## 3. Approve minutes of regular meeting of April 3, 2013

*Ferrara moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2013. Seconded.*

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Connell, Johnson, Kozak, Lickness, Rice, Rubenstein.

## 4. Chair's Report

Clegg stated that Commissioners had received the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Superintendent's 2012 Annual Report.

## Discussion

### 5. Plain Language Charter Revision:

#### Consideration of final version of Plain Language Charter.

Clegg stated that the final version of the Plain Language Charter contained the changes requested by the City Attorney's Office and changes negotiated between the City Attorney's Office and the Park Board. Article X, which had contained transitional provisions, was eliminated since the final version provided that the Plain Language Charter would not take effect until 2015. The Charter Commission previously approved the Plain Language Charter with the expectation that it may be amended before final transmittal to the City Council.

*Gerdes moved that the final version of the Plain Language Charter be substituted for the previously approved version and that Chair Clegg be authorized to transmit the final version of the Plain Language Charter to the City Council on or after May 6, 2013 in order to avoid triggering a special election. Seconded.*

Adopted unanimously upon a voice vote.

Absent - Connell, Rubenstein.

Chair Clegg expressed the Charter Commission's thanks to Former Commissioner Brian Melendez for his hard work on the Plain Language Charter over the years.

## **6. Plain Language Charter Education and Outreach Committee: Update.**

Clegg stated that the Education and Outreach Committee had met on April 17 to discuss how to promote and educate the public about the Plain Language Charter. Commissioners Schwarzkopf and Ferrara agreed to head up the committee. Commissioner Schwarzkopf distributed a summary of a possible communications plan.

Ferrara stated that it was important that all Commissioners try to find a way to participate. Some Commissioners are involved in other community groups and activities and would be valuable assets in spreading the word on the Plain Language Charter.

Cohen requested that the elevator speech noted in the summary be created as soon as possible so Commissioners could use it when the opportunity arose during the coming months. Clegg stated that he would try to have a draft ready at the next meeting.

Rice inquired if it would be worthwhile to ask a political party, such as the DFL, to endorse the Plain Language Charter. Clegg noted that the DFL had endorsed the redistricting amendment, but it was not included on their sample ballot. He had appeared before the Minneapolis DFL Central Committee to advise them that the Charter Commission would be placing the Plain Language Charter on the November ballot, but at that point the document was not complete. Ferrara suggested the topic be discussed at the next Education and Outreach Committee meeting.

## **Public Commentary**

There was no one present wishing to address the Charter Commission.

*Gerdes moved to adjourn.* Seconded.

Adopted upon a voice vote.

Absent - Connell, Rubenstein.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by: Peggy Menshek, Charter Commission Coordinator