



CHARTER COMMISSION

Columbia Heights City Hall, 3989 Central Ave NE, Shared Vision

Thursday, January 18, 2024

7:00 PM

Draft Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL/STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members present: Kathy Ahlers, Wolid Ahmed, Ramona Anderson, Larry Betzhold, Ben Harris, Bill Hugo, Carolyn Laine, Frost Simula, Gregory Sloat, Marsha Stroik, Nick Zeimet

Members absent: Excused: Matt Abel, Veronica Johnson; Unexcused: Susan Wiseman

Also Present: Council Liaison Rachel James

1. **Appointment of Commissioner Marsha Stroik**
2. **Resignation of Commissioner Cliff Johnson**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Simula, second by Hugo. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. **October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Ahmed, second by Anderson. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

4. **President, Vice President, and Secretary**

- a. **President**

Laine - Motion by Laine, second by Simula.

Laine elected.

- b. **Vice President**

Betzhold - Motion by Anderson, second by Hugo.

Johnson - Motion by Ahlers, second by Simula.

Betzhold elected.

- c. **Secretary**

Simula - Motion by Hugo, second by Ahlers.

Simula elected.

CORRESPONDENCE

In response to a previous question, Council Liaison Rachel James sent an email explaining how the city attorney is paid for Charter Commission work.

OLD BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS

5. Introduction of new Interim City Attorney Scott Lepak

Lepak introduced himself and clarified that the city's retainer for his services included whatever is needed to support the Charter Commission's work.

Regarding the special election on February 13, 2024, it was asked if voting 'no' on the first Recall question would disqualify voting on the second Replacement question. Lepak clarified that the two questions are separate, and a voter can vote as they wish on both parts.

Regarding the same special election, it was asked if the official named in the first Recall question could be included in the second Replacement question as a write-in candidate. Lepak clarified that state law requires all non-primary election ballots to offer the opportunity to write in a name. However, Lepak committed to further research into whether this forms a conflict within the intent of the charter.

6. Approval of the 2023 Charter Commission Annual Report

Motion to approve: Hugo, second by Anderson. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ahlers, second Betzhold. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. Next meeting is April 18 at 7pm.