

**CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CHARTER COMMISSION
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

MEMBERSHIP:

The following members served in 2022:

Matt Abel	Bill Hugo	Steve Smith
Kathy Ahlers	Clifford Johnson	Frost Simula
Ramona Anderson	Veronica Johnson*	Susan Wiseman
Larry Betzold*	Carolyn Laine	Nick Zeimet
Tyler Eubank	Joe Schluender**	
Ben Harris	Gregory Sloat	

* Commissioner Larry Betzold was appointed in April 2022, and Veronica Johnson was appointed in September 2022.

**Commissioner Joe Schluender resigned following the April 2022 meeting.

At the end of 2022, there were 15 Commissioners.

OFFICERS:

The following members served as officers for the Charter Commission in 2022:

President: Steve Smith
Vice President: Carolyn Laine
Secretary: Frost Simula

MEETINGS:

The Charter Commission held three meetings in 2022: April 21, July 21, and October 20.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

The Commission discussed the following issue in 2022:

Council Vacancies:

At the April 2022 meeting, the Charter Commission continued the 2020 and 2021 discussion of using special elections to fill City Council vacancies as well as keeping an appointment process but modifying it. During the discussion Commission Vice President Laine made a motion for a first hearing of language shortening the appointment process from 105 days to 45 days. In addition to shortening the appointment process language was added that if the council failed to make the appointment in the 45-day time period the mayor must appoint a person from the remaining applicants to fill the vacancy within 15 days.

The Charter Commission held a second hearing on this amendment at the July 2022 meeting and the amendment was approved as written. Ordinance 1681, Amending Chapter 2 Section 9 went to the City Council for a first hearing on September 12, 2022. It failed to have a second reading set.

At the October 2022 Charter Commission meeting, the Commission discussed options for moving forward with the amendment. The Commission decided to table the amendment to a later time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Ion, City Clerk/Recording Secretary