

**CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CHARTER COMMISSION
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

MEMBERSHIP:

The following members served in 2021:

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

* Commissioner Ben Harris and Clifford Johnson were appointed in March of 2021.

**Commissioner Tom Kaiser resigned following the October 2021 meeting.

Councilmember KT Jacobs served as the Council Liaison for 2021.

At the end of 2021, there were 14 Commissioners.

OFFICERS:

The following members served as officers for the Charter Commission in 2021:

President: Steve Smith

Vice President: Matt Abel

Secretary: Bill Hugo

MEETINGS:

The Charter Commission held three meetings in 2021: April 15, July 15 and October 22.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

The Commission discussed the following issue in 2021:

Mayors Term Length:

At the April 2021 Meeting Commissioner Simula presented changing the Mayor's term length from two years to four years. There was a discussion about how this change was not supported by Council or Voters in 2018 and the Commission decided not to move forward with the item at this time.

Charter Commission Legislation:

At the April 2021 Meeting Commissioner Laine stated that during the 2020 session there were changes made to Minnesota State Statute regarding Charter Cities. These include clarification that the Chief Judge can reappoint Charter Commission members, changing the time frame for making an appointment or reappointment to 60 days, and changing the amount of money a Charter Commission is authorized to receive in order to educate on a charter amendment to 0.07% of the property tax levy.

Council Vacancies:

At the April 2021 meeting, the Charter Commission continued the 2020 discussion of using special elections to fill City Council vacancies as well as keeping an appointment process, but modifying it. During the discussion, it was determined proposals would be drafted for both options and brought to the next meeting for consideration.

The topic of council vacancies was continued at the July 2021 meeting as well. The Commission decided to continue the conversation to the next meeting. At the October 2021 meeting the Commission made a vote to pursue updating the

Charter regarding special elections. Commissioner Simula presented information about his proposed plan, and the information was to be further solidified and brought to the Commission for review at the January 20, 2022 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Ion, City Clerk/Recording Secretary