



CHARTER COMMISSION

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

Thursday, April 18, 2024

7:00 PM

Draft Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL/STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members present: Matt Abel, Kathy Ahlers, Wolid Ahmed, Ramona Anderson, Larry Betzhold, Christine Brown, Ben Harris, Bill Hugo, Veronica Johnson, Carolyn Laine, Frost Simula, Gregory Sloat, Marsha Stroik, Susan Wiseman

Members absent: Excused: Nick Ziemet

Also Present: Council Liaison Rachel James, Interim City Attorney Scott Lepak

1. Appointment of Commissioner Christine Brown

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Matt Able, second by Gregory Sloat. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ramona Anderson, second by Sue Wiseman. Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Interim City Attorney Scott Lepak regarding his role with regards to the Charter Commission and his suggestion that no changes be made to the Charter regarding Recall until after the Supreme Court issues their opinion on the past recall court ruling.

OLD BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discussion and possible motion for Charter revision of Recall section

Briefly reviewed that Minnesota State law sets the high bar of malfeasance and nonfeasance for Recall.

Some possible revisions to the Recall section could include:

- grounds for removal that include malfeasance and nonfeasance
- grounds for removal that include "OR conviction of a serious crime" (similar to Mankato)
- changes to the information collected and formatting of the Recall Petition

- splitting the Recall and the Succession into separate special elections
- further defining the Succession election, such as the case for a primary election
- defining the eligibility of the recalled official in the Succession election (similar to Mankato)

In general the Commission agreed that the Recall section should be revised to include clarifications.

Interim City Attorney Scott Lepak will notify the Commission when the Supreme Court opinion of the past recall case is released.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gregory Sloat, second by Ramona Anderson. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

DRAFT