Charter Commission

May 1, 2023
7:00 PM
Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Nelson called the Charter Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mohamed Barre
Gary Braam
Ibsen Gabriel
Greg Gardner
Manuel Granroos
Steven Kisner
Ted Kranz
Rick Nelson
Val Rolstad

Absent: Kelli Brillhart, Donald Findell, Nikki Karnopp, Oluwaseyi Olawore, Pam Reynolds, Avonna Starck

Others Present: Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Braam to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Granroos.

Upon a voice call vote, all voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval April 3, Joint Charter Commission and City Council Meeting Minutes

   Motion by Commissioner Braam to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

Upon a voice call vote, all voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

2. Meeting Room Change

Ms. Moore stated that due to ongoing technical issues with the equipment in the Fireside Room and the need to provide a Zoom meeting for the October and November meetings, arrangements have been made for the October and November meetings to be held in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where the technology has recently been upgraded. Signage will be posted to help show the Commission where to go.

3. Chapter No. 10, Franchises and Public Utilities

Ms. Moore provided an update on the FCC changes and how they relate to Franchises and Government Entities as requested by Commissioner Reynolds. Ms. Moore said she did some research and worked with the City's Cable Administrator, Brian Strand and they found they need some more time to process the information. Ms. Moore also reached out to the franchise specialist at the City Attorney's office for more information. Further updates on the Franchise chapter will be available on the Charter Commission agenda in October.

Old Business

4. Review of Chapter 4

Ms. Moore answered questions pertaining to this chapter that were brought forward at the March meeting that she was unable to attend.

Chair Nelson asked about the difference between state statute and state law and if they should be listed as the same thing throughout the chapter. Ms. Moore stated that through recodification and updates to the City Code, the City has adopted the phrase "state statute." The Body has agreed to update the language throughout the chapter to "state statute".

The Body held a discussion on section 4.06 regarding the $10 candidate filing fee. The question was raised if the language should be changed to allow for fee changes or if now is a good time to update the filing fee. Ms. Moore asked if the Body would be interested in Staff putting together a fee comparison from other Cities with like sized populations to the City of Fridley.

Motion by Commissioner Granroos to ask Staff to put together a fee schedule of what other Cities with populations like Fridley charge Candidates to file. Seconded by Commissioner Braam.

Upon a voice call vote, all voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on other sections of the chapter regarding election judges and write in votes and previously discussed changes to earlier sections were reviewed.

Chair Nelson mentioned that there are two sections for Nominations by Petition and if it would make sense to combine sections 4.06 and 4.07 instead of keeping them separate. Discussion was held to change the headings of each section instead of combining. Staff will provide a re-write of section 4.07. An updated draft will be provided in the October agenda packet.

New Business

5. Debrief from Joint Meeting with the Fridley City Council

Discussion held on joint meeting held with the Fridley City Council on April 3, 2023. As a result of that meeting a resolution was passed by the Council asking the Charter Commission to meet eight times a year and to continue work on revisions to Chapter 4. Feedback from the City Council about the meeting was overwhelmingly positive.

Future Meeting Topics/Communications

6. Future Meeting Topics

Continued discussion on Chapter 4 and a report back from Staff on Chapter 10.

Commissioner Kisner asked about any type of upcoming trainings. Chair Nelson asked if the video from the Attorney's training session from January 2023 could be routed to Commission members or if there are other past videos to re-share and discuss. Staff will review and make recommendations at the October meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Gardner to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Granroos

Upon a voice call vote, all voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.