Charter Commission

March 6, 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 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mohamed Barre
Gary Braam
Ibsen Gabriel (arrived at 7:13 p.m.)
Greg Gardner
Manuel Granroos
Nikki Karnopp
Steven Kisner
Rick Nelson
Pam Reynolds
Val Rolstad
Avonna Starck

Absent: Kelli Brillhart, Donald Findell, Ted Kranz, Oluwaseyi Olawore, Melissa Moore

Others Present: Wally Wysopal, City Manager
Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk
Ryan Evanson, Councilmember, Ward 2

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Granroos to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Starck voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval February 6, 2023, Charter Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Gardner to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Braam.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Starck voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters

2. Election of Officers

Chair Nelson noted the slate of Officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. He welcomed any additional nominations.

There were no other nominations.

Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk, provided paper ballots for voting.

The following Commission members were elected unanimously through paper balloting:

Rick Nelson as Chair, Manny Granroos as Vice Chair, and Val Rolstad as Secretary.

3. 2023 Member List

Chair Nelson noted that a list of the updated membership was provided in the packet.

Ms. Kondrick noted that all contact information for the members has also been updated.

4. Establishing Agenda Topics for a Joint Meeting with the Fridley City Council (Council)

Ms. Kondrick noted that staff compiled a list of topics for discussion with the Council at the upcoming joint meeting and welcomed any additions.

There were no additions.

Motion by Commissioner Rolstad to affirm the list of topics for the joint meeting with the Council as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Starck voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

5. Revised Bylaws

Ms. Kondrick noted that the revised Bylaws are attached for the Commission’s records.

Old Business

6. Review of Chapter 4

The Commission continued its review of the sections of Chapter 4.

The Commission agreed that Section 4.04 should reference Section 2.07 rather than 2.06.

The Commission agreed that Section 4.02 should be changed to 14 days notice instead of 15.

The Commission asked for clarification from Melissa Moore, City Clerk on the following items:

- Explaining the City Attorney's comments regarding Section 4.04 with regard to what topics voters may be allowed to vote for, related to Chapter 5 of the Charter.
- Distinctions in eligibility to be a Head Judge for the City, versus an Election Judge (eligible voter versus registered voter).
- Clarify staff's first comment regarding Section 4.06 and why requiring a Nomination Petition might be considered onerous for a candidate who is or is not affiliated with a major political party.
- Clarify if there is a difference between a Nomination Petition and an Affidavit of Candidacy, and what those differences are.
- More information on how the City tallies write-in votes and if those processes differ from what the Charter language may direct.

The Commission asked for Section 4.05 to be put into bullet format to better clarify the disqualifications of an Election Judge.

The Commission agreed that the minimum number of Election Judges appointed to each voting precinct should be three, and not two.

Motion by Commissioner Starck to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 4 related to election judges as discussed. Seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Gabriel, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Starck voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission tabled a discussion of Section 4.07 until the Commission could review staff's responses from this meeting.

New Business

Commissioner Reynolds asked if members that have left the Commission would be recognized for their service, noting that certificates were previously issued. It was also suggested that those members be invited to the Commission Appreciation Dinner.

Future Meeting Topics/Communications

Chair Nelson noted the upcoming joint meeting with the Council.

Adjournment

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

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Gabriel, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Nelson, Reynolds, Rolstad and Starck voting aye, Chair Nelson declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.