Charter Commission and Fridley City Council

April 3, 2023
7:00 PM
Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Granroos called the Charter Commission meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mohamed Barre
Gary Braam
Kelli Brillhart
Greg Gardner
Manuel Granroos
Nikki Karnopp
Steven Kisner
Ted Kranz
Rick Nelson
Oluwaseyi Olawore
Pam Reynolds
Val Rolstad
Avonna Starck

Absent: Donald Findell, Ibsen Gabriel

Others Present: Wally Wysopal, City Manager
Scott Lund, Mayor
David Ostwald, Councilmember
Tom Tillbury, Councilmember
Ann Bolkcom, Councilmember
Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Beth Kondrick, Deputy City Clerk

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Reynolds to amend the agenda to add a meeting opener by Wally Wysopal. Seconded by Commissioner Kisner.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Brillhart, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Olawore, Reynolds, Rolstad and Stark all voting aye, Vice Chair Granroos declared the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Motion by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the meeting minutes of March 6, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Karnopp.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Brillhart, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Olawore, Reynolds, Rolstad and Stark all voting aye, Vice Chair Granroos declared the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Joint Meeting with the Fridley City Council (Council)

Mayor Lund asked the Commission if they feel comfortable with the amount of meetings they have each year, noting that some Charter cities only hold meetings once a year, or quarterly. Vice Chair Granroos stated that the Commission is comfortable with the amount of meetings. Other members of the Commission also voiced support for continuing to meet eight times a year as it helps with the work they do and to help in bringing new members up to speed.

Commissioner Braam asked if the Council would find value in setting a yearly meeting with the Charter Commission. Councilmembers Ostwald and Tillbury said yes, they see a huge value in setting a yearly meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Karnopp to set a yearly meeting between the Council and the Charter Commission every April. Seconded by Commissioner Rolstad.

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Brillhart, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Olawore, Reynolds, Rolstad and Stark all voting aye, Vice Chair Granroos declared the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Ostwald asked if the HF1723 bill would have any bearing on the Commission's work on Chapter 4, Nominations and Elections. Ms. Moore highlighted a few elements of HF1723 and indicated that the bill would have no bearing on the chapter.

Commissioner Brillhart asked if the Council had heard anything from the Public regarding either Chapter 4 or anything else pertaining to Charter. Mayor Lund said he does not have any feedback and believes that many citizens do not realize the City is a Charter City and not a Statutory City. Mayor Lund did say he would try to more often ask people when he is out and about if they have questions about the election process or educate more on what the Charter is and what the Commission does.

Commissioner Olawore expressed desire to try to work more collaboratively with the Council and help both groups move forward with their work.

Commissioner Stark said it would be helpful if something important is happening in the Council's perspective, the Commission would appreciate someone from the Council or the City Manager to come and share those items with the Commission. Commissioner Kisner added that such collaboration would help move on from past difficulties and help the Commission be more strategic and positive in its future work.

Future Meeting Topics/Communications

Commissioner Reynolds asked to remove the review of Chapters 5 and 7 from the list of future meeting topics. Commissioner Reynolds asked about adding a review of Chapter 12. Ms. Moore stated she would investigate if there were any developments on the FCC's review of franchise law and will add her report to the next meeting agenda.

Adjournment

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

Upon a roll call vote, Barre, Braam, Brillhart, Gardner, Granroos, Karnopp, Kisner, Kranz, Olawore, Reynolds, Rolstad and Stark all voting aye, Vice Chair Granroos declared the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.